Morphing Letters into Abstract Art! pg. 60

DESIGNS IN MACHINE EMBROIDERY

Monograms

12+ Vintage to Modern How-To's

Volume 96 • January/February 2016
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DESIGNS
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Between Friends

Eileen Roche,
Embroidery Expert & Editor of
Designs in Machine Embroidery

Text. It's a way of life today. We text on our phones, we text on instant messenger, we communicate in text all day, every day. But text doesn't have to be plain, flat and boring. Oh no, we can use our embroidery machines to stitch beautiful letters. Embroidered letters can be appliqued (with custom fabric!), stitched in glossy or matte thread, on a line or scrambled on a canvas. Add traditional monograms to personal accessories such as totebags, sweatshirts, knit beanies or jewelry keepers. If you can hoop it, you can add stitched text.

But letters can go the distance for decorative home accessories too. Consider following Diane Kron's example of a stitched uppercase letter on applique fabric. This approach lets the letter shine as the focal point of the dining room table. Diane's elegant approach to dressing the table would work in any home.

"If you can hoop it, you can stitch text."

If you want to kick it up a notch, you'll enjoy what Katherine Artines did to simple letters: she morphed names into abstract art. Since Katherine never quite settles for ordinary, you'll find scrambled letters, varied fonts and colors that make her Signature Style on page 60.

Of course, not all embroidered letters have to be modern. Learn how to incorporate today's technology on yesterday's heirloom. It's definitely possible to add new stitches to vintage linens. Turn to page 38 to see how to mix the old with the new. Speaking of old, I encourage you to break away from the old habit of reaching for cotton fabric when looking for a substrate for your next project. Experiment with different fibers for a fresh new look. Suede (real or faux) is a beautiful backdrop for embroidered stitches. Its subtle nap and soft shading adds a luxurious touch to Marie Zinno's belt (page 34) and Sue Obremski's tablet tote (page 56). Nancy Zieman's jewelry keeper wraps precious metals and stones in shiny silk. Deb Mundinger and Kenny Christopher wrap up the fabric topic with a discussion of denim in Fabrics 101 on page 72.

The next time you really want your message to make an impact, stitch it!

Happy Stitching!

www.dzgns.com/blog/

Visit Eileen's Blog for more fun from Behind the Scenes

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– This Issue's Inside Look –

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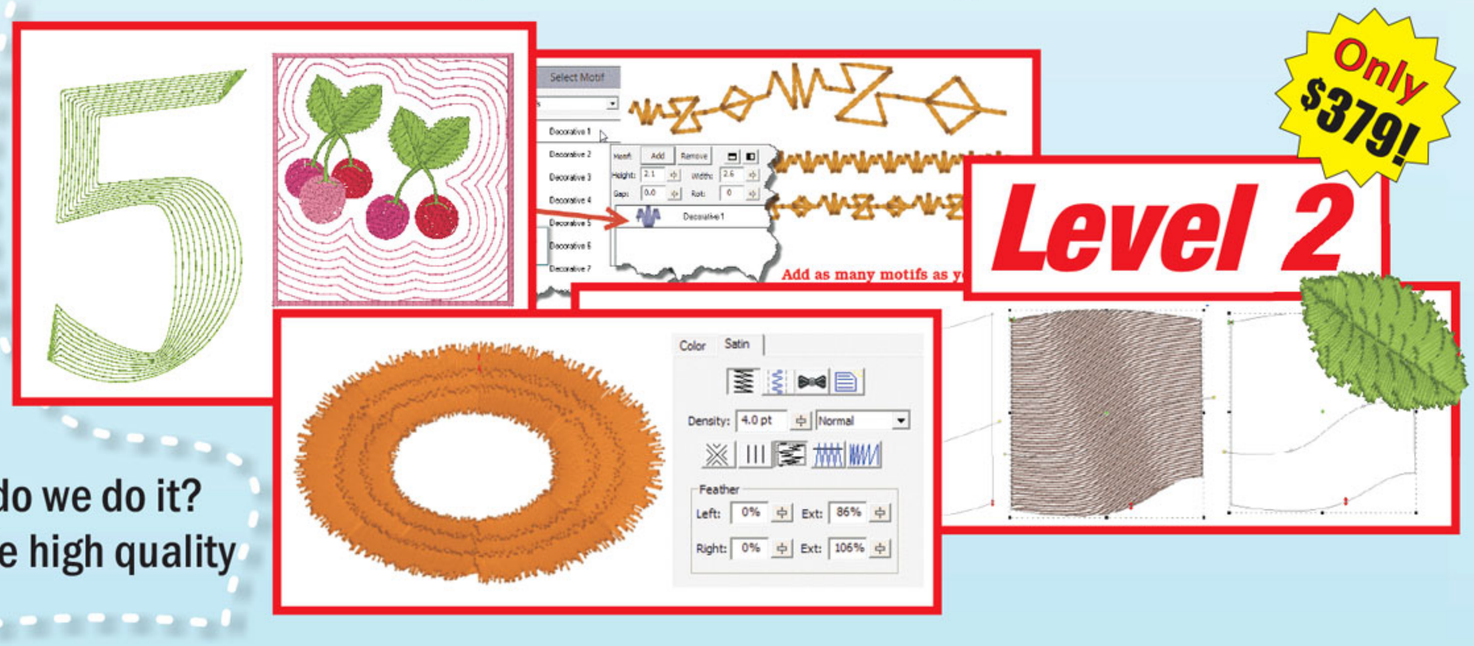

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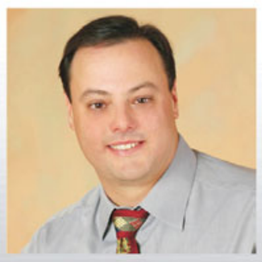

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What's New In Designs

By Karina Ramirez

Monogram Blends – Classic 1

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Applique for Kids

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Valentine Owl 2 Applique Design

Applique Café

www.appliquecafe.com

Damask Alphabet

Embroidery Library

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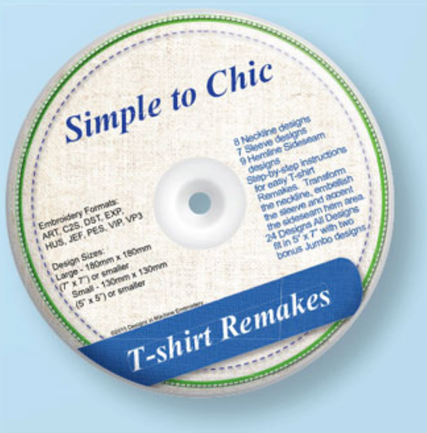
Simple to Chic

T-shirt Remakes

with Nancy Zieman
& Eileen Roche

Learn how to efficiently and creatively use your embroidery machine to give a plain top a new focus. Nancy Zieman and embroidery expert, Eileen Roche will give you the confidence and inspiration you need to update the neckline of a top with designer touches. With embroidery not only can you add thread motifs, but programmed stitches can also change the shape of the neckline.

NUMEROUS WAYS TO CUSTOMIZE

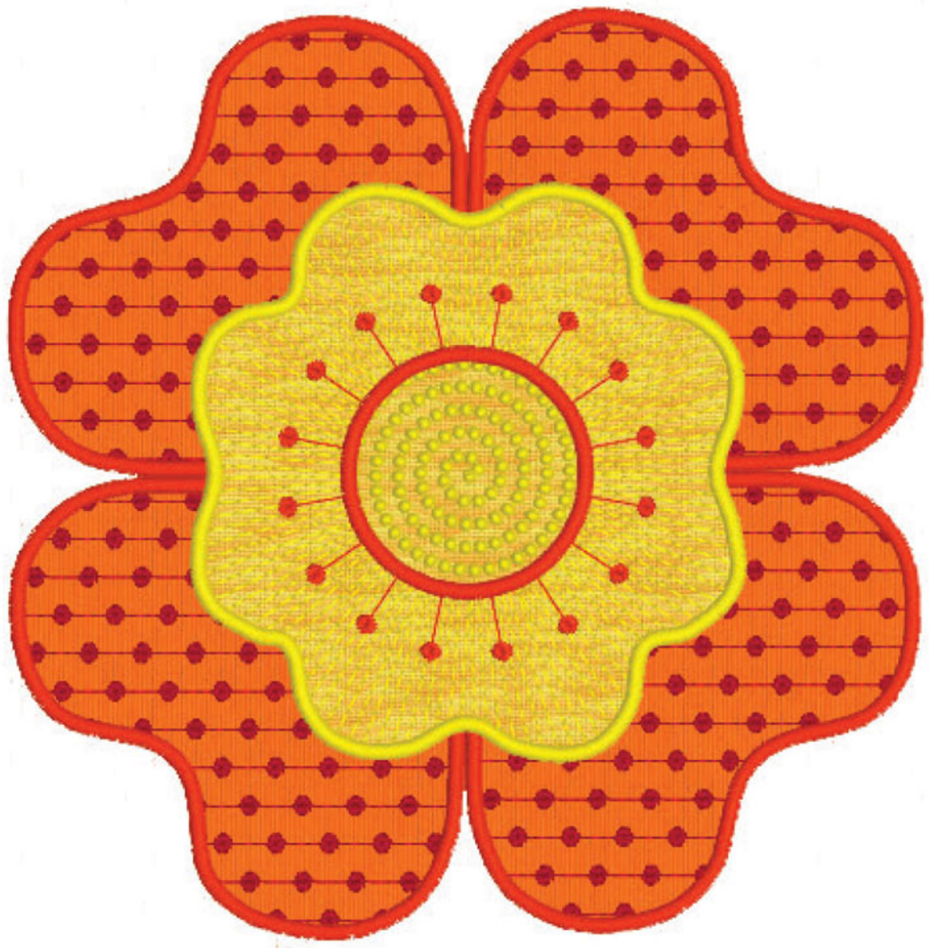


Simple to Chic T-Shirt Remakes is a multi-format CD with 7 mini-collections to transform necklines, sleeves and side seams. 24 designs fit in one 5” x 7” hooping; one design requires two 5” x 7” hoopings and one design is offered in two jumbo sizes (6” x 10” hoop and 8” x 14” hoop).

You’ll learn how to:

- Transform a crew neckline into a laced front opening.
- Embellish sleeves with coordinating designs.
- Relax a tight hem area with side seam embroidery.
- Add a back hem extension with decorative details.

What's New In Designs



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Mendhika Alphabet
Urban Threads
www.urbanthreads.com

From Winter to Spring
Sudberry House
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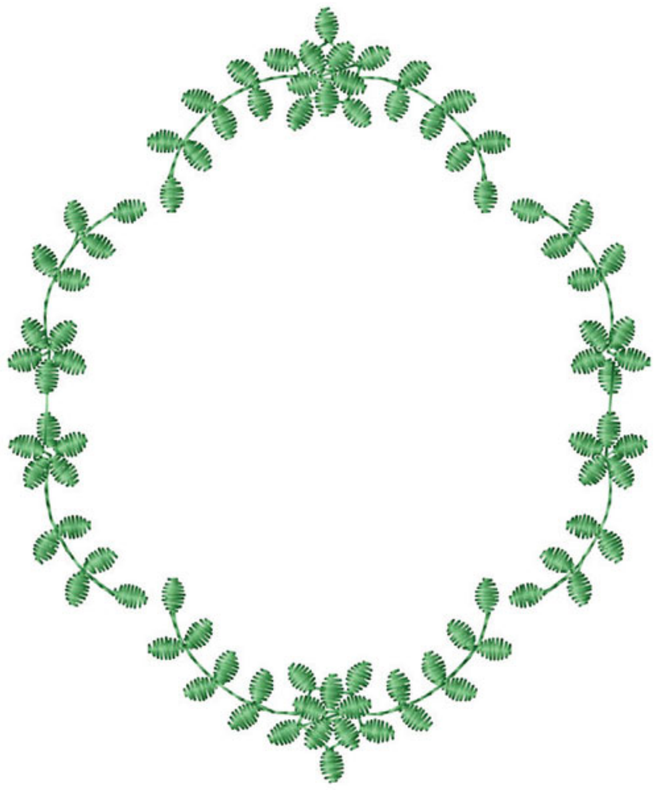

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Monogram the Moment
Gift and Travel Ready

By Nancy Zieman

It always brings me joy to create special things for the special people in my life. A monogram is a perfect way to personalize any gift. Treat a dear friend or family member to a gorgeous gift bag (without pockets) or jewelry pouch (with pockets) you've created just for them. The embroidery collection that I used includes lovely accent designs to further embellish the beautiful monograms.

Embroidery Products

Amazing Designs® Embellished Monograms…Roses Embroidery Designs CD (ADEMR)
Optional: Amazing Designs® Edit Xpress™ Software included on Embroidery Designs CD

Supplies

⅝ yd. polyester dupioni fabric: royal blue or wine (pouch and optional pocket)
⅝ yd. gold or silver lamé fabric (lining and optional pocket)
3 ⅓ yd. ⅛" wide ribbon or silky cord
Hydro-stick™ Tear-away stabilizer
Optional: ⅝ yd. lightweight interfacing

Helpful Notions

Rotary cutter, mat, and ruler
Yardstick Compass
Straight pins
6-in-1 Stick 'n Stitch Guide
Clip 'n Glide Bodkin
Klasse Embroidery Needles, size 80/12
Curved embroidery scissors
Erasable marking pen or pencil
Pattern tracing paper
Scraps of tear-away stabilizer
¼" wide two-sided fusible tape, such as EZ Steam II
Optional: White Stabilize It! Permanent Topping
Optional: Translucent foundation paper for printed templates
Optional: Embroidery Reference Cards
Optional: Spray Starch or Best Press™ Starch Alternative
Optional: Sewer's Fix-it Tape

Threads

Madeira Rayon Threads: I used colors 1301, 1001, 1071, 1222, 1159, 1047, 1169, 1170, and 1057 for the wine pouch and colors 1023, 1190, 1047, 1106, 1174, 1019, 1153, 1020, and 1107 for the royal blue pouch.

Prewound bobbins

Matching all-purpose thread

Note: All embroidery products, supplies, threads, and fabrics are available at Nancy's Notions® www.nancysnotions.com

Nancy's Tip

Enlarging accent embroidery designs for the following project can easily be accomplished right on your embroidery machine or in embroidery editing software on your computer.

Prepare Pattern and Fabrics

Download the free Sewing With Nancy® Gift Bag and Jewelry Pouch Pattern at www.nancysnotions.com/dimeV96 .

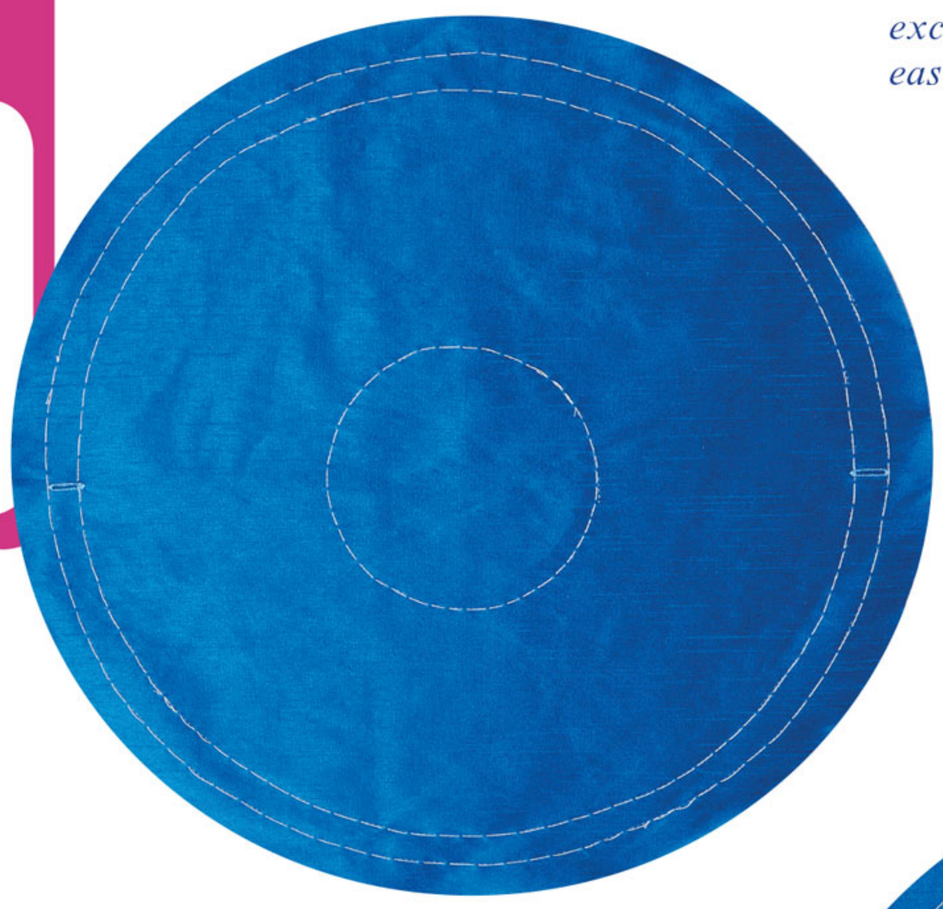
Follow Step 1, in the pattern instructions to create paper patterns needed for pouch and pocket.

Proceed to Step 2, to cut out all the project components needed, following the pattern instructions. Optional: Starch the pouch fabric pieces well.

Mark topstitching lines following Steps 3 and 4 from pattern on the right side of the pouch piece.

Note: I enhanced the transferred markings with thread basting for better visibility in the photographs.

Stitch the buttonholes as detailed in Step 5 of the pattern.



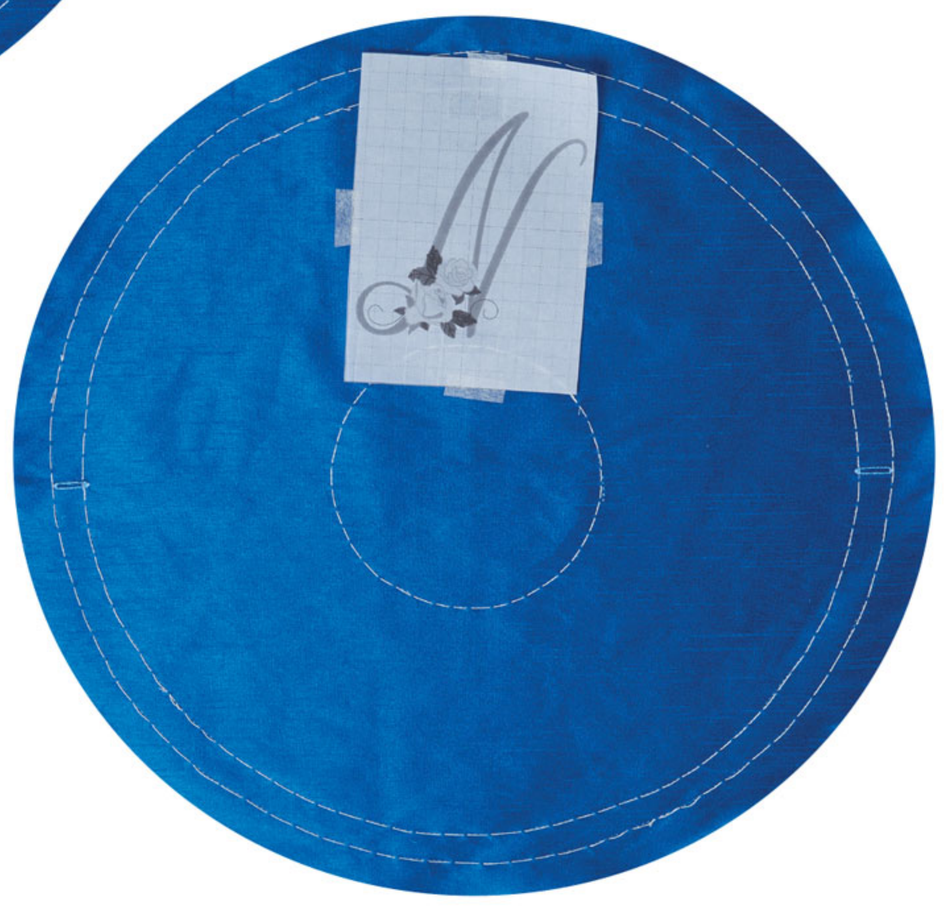
Position and Embroider Designs

Embroidering a single monogram is easy, fast, and incredibly elegant!

Print a template of the monogram design you wish to use. If you plan to enlarge the design, remember to enlarge the templates before printing them.

Note: Although you can use conventional printer paper to print templates, using Translucent Foundation Paper allows you to see through the paper, making it easier to align the designs. Be sure to trim away excess paper from around the design for easier arranging.

Simply position the monogram template between the topstitching markings and approximately centered between the buttonholes. I found some letters fit between the lines better if I rotated them just slightly. Pin or tape the template in place with Sewer's Fix-it Tape.



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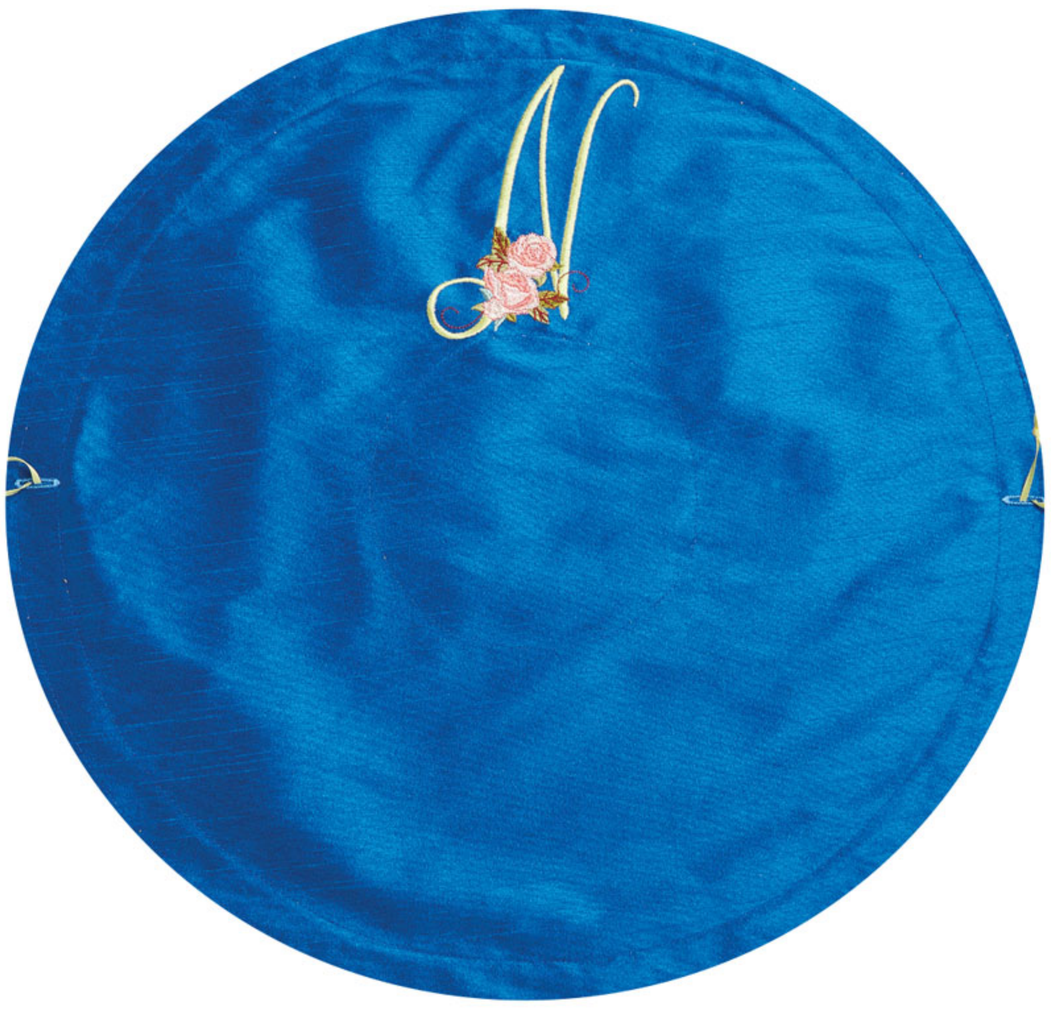
Hoop a piece of Hydro-stick stabilizer, adhesive side up, and lightly moisten before positioning the pouch embroidery area over the activated adhesive. Remember to remove the templates before you embroider.

Embroider the monogram.



Consider changing thread colors to further personalize the embroidery—if the giftee adores peach colors, you can give her embroidered peach roses. Make notes of thread color changes on Embroidery Reference Cards; you'll know exactly what colors you used if you wish to make a second gift!

Remember to use a permanent topping when embroidering light colors on dark fabrics. The topping prevents the dark fabric from showing through the embroidery.

After I embroidered one pouch piece I had to try a second; this time adding the accent designs to coordinate with the beautiful monogram.

Try enlarging the accent designs slightly, to help fill the fabric space. Make notes of any changes on Embroidery Reference Cards; they help you keep track of those embroidery details!
Position monogram and any desired accent designs within the marked topstitch lines.

Pin or tape templates in place with Sewer's Fix-It Tape, if needed. Again, remember to remove the templates when ready to embroider.

Embroider the monogram and accent designs.

Complete the Gift/Travel Pouch

Gently remove excess stabilizer from the embroidery.

Press the finished embroidery face down on a padded ironing surface.

Follow pattern instructions continuing from Step 7, to easily complete the pouches. Join me in sharing the joy of lovely monogrammed gifts!

Nancy Zieman is host and executive producer of Sewing With Nancy® on public television and founder of Nancy's Notions®. Embroidery thread, supplies, and a free catalog are available from Nancy's Notions®. Call 800.833.0690 or visit the Nancy's Notions website at www.nancysnotions.com.

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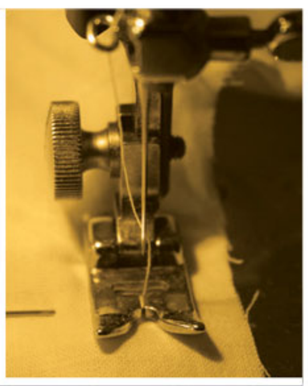

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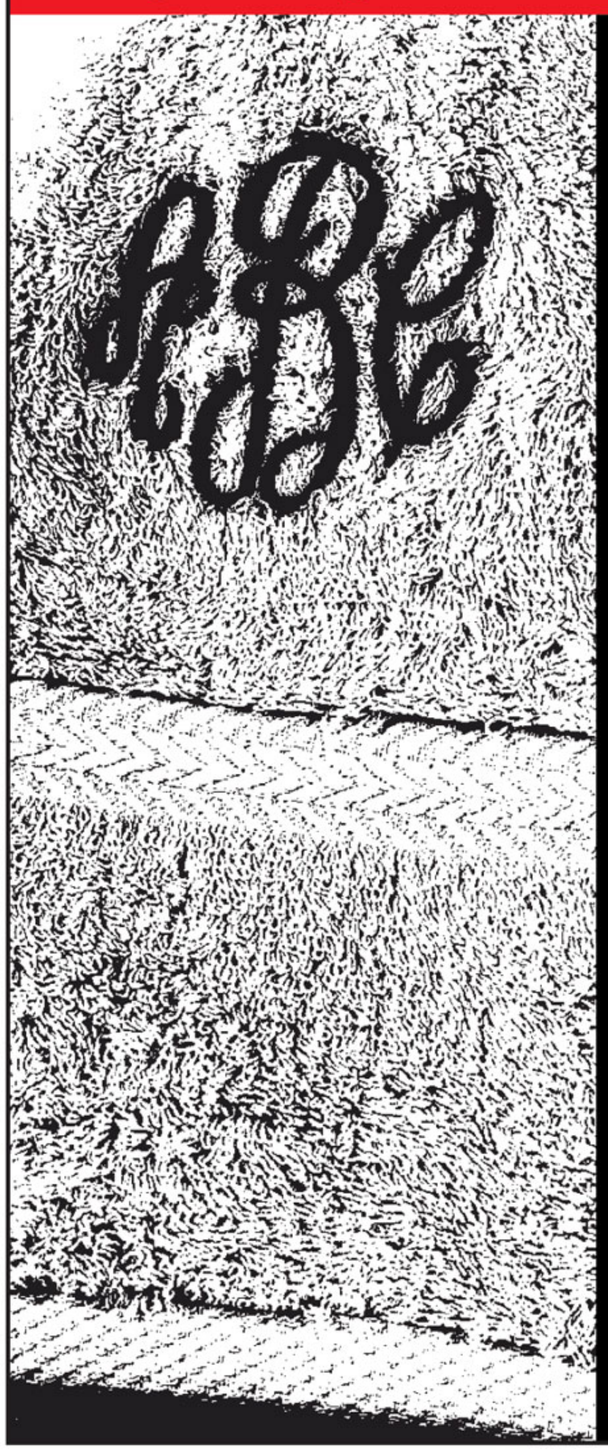


Over 200 historical monogram styles inspired by designs from the Renaissance through the present.

Come Dine with Me

By Diane Kron,
Software and Embroidery Projects Manager for Designer's Gallery

Homemade

monogrammed placemats are quick and easy to make, even for beginners! Find fabric on sale, install your digitizing program, grab your sewing machine and let's ***get started.***

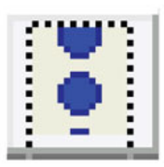
Finished size of placemat is 18" x 14"

Software Icon Key

Designer's Gallery Icon

Appliqué Icon

Create Icon



French Knot Icon

Merge Design Icon

Create Letters Icon

Embroidery Products

Baby Lock® Destiny™ sewing and embroidery machine
Designer's Gallery® Creator - Level 2 digitizing program

Supplies

2 yd. chevron print decorator fabric
½ yd. black print cotton fabric for the appliqué and binding
Baby Lock Tear-Away Soft stabilizer
Baby Lock Cut-Away Fusible Appliqué
Madeira sewing and embroidery thread
Digital Dual Feed Attachment
Frixion marking pen
Batting
Temporary spray adhesive
Basic embroidery supplies

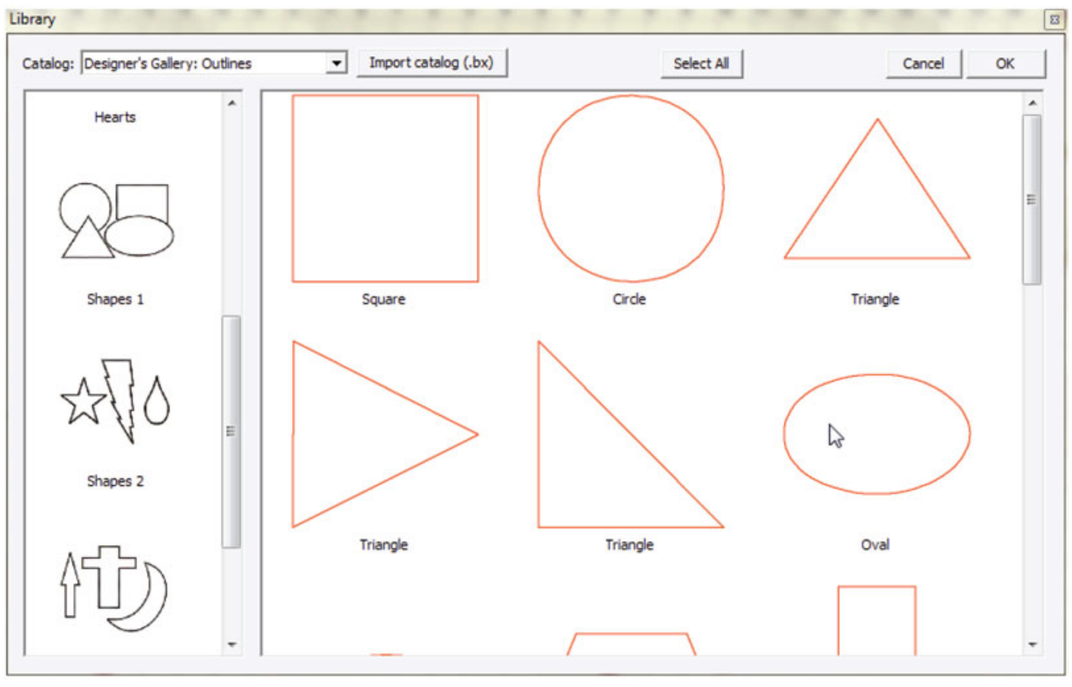
Prep the Fabric

Cut eight 16" x 20" pieces of decorator fabric. Subcut these sections into eight 16" x 18" sections. Mark the front center on four of the sections with the Frixion pen to designate the center of the applique design.

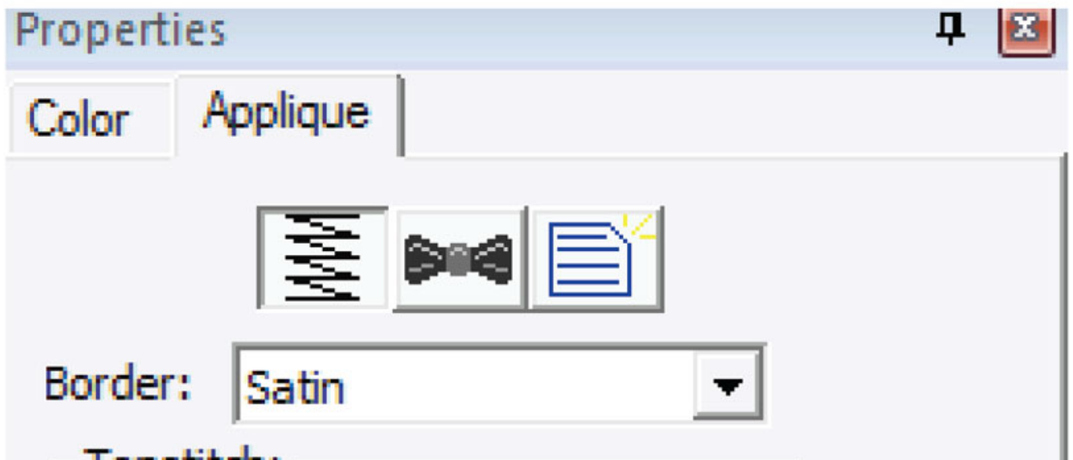
Cut a 15" x 8" piece black print fabric and Cut-Away Fusible Appliqué stabilizer. Fuse the stabilizer to the wrong side of the fabric. Set aside.

At the Computer

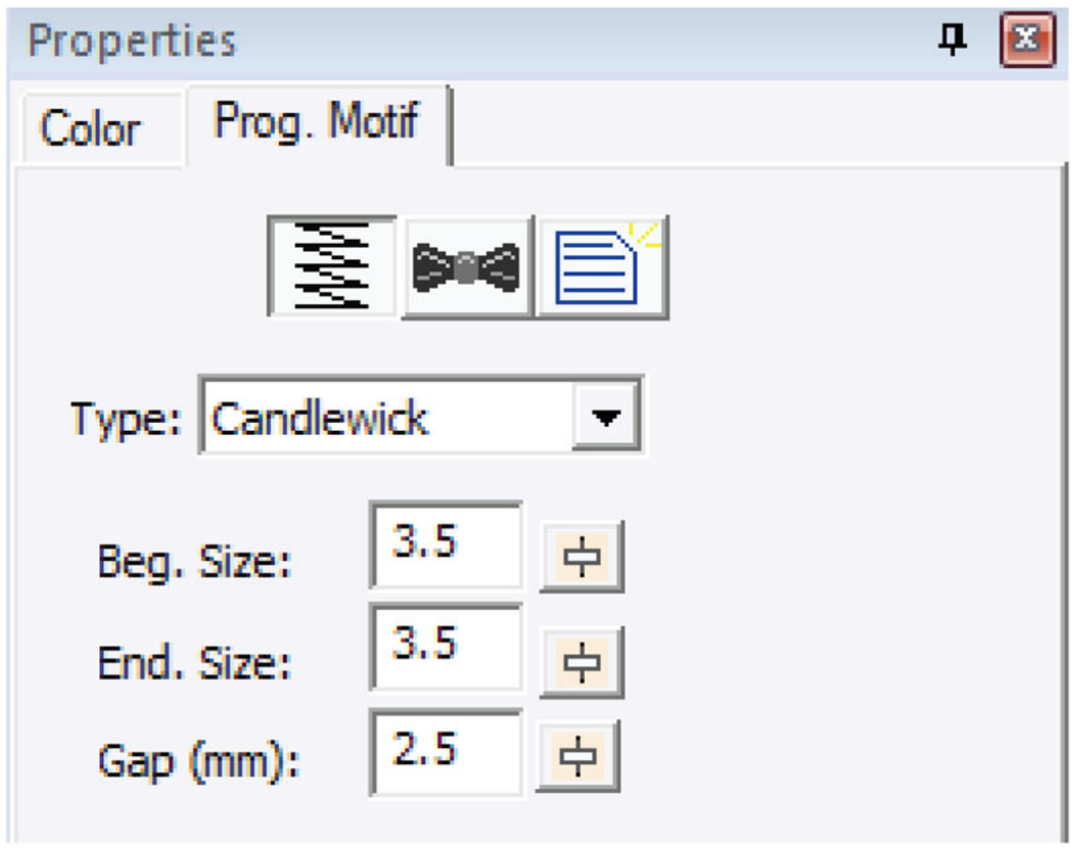
Open the Designer's Gallery icon on the desktop. To open Creator click on the Create icon on the top toolbar. To select the shape for digitizing, click on the Merge Design icon on the toolbar. Under Category, select Designer's Gallery Outlines. Scroll down and select Shapes 1 from the list of over 200 different shapes. Click on the square shape and click OK to place it on the workspace.



To add appliqué to the shape, select the shape and click on the Appliqué icon on the top toolbar. Under the Properties field, change border to Satin and the Stitch Width to 4mm. Place a checkmark next to the Position and Material categories to create the color stops needed for appliqué.



To place a candlewicking stitch on top of the satin stitch, duplicate the square shape. Select the duplicated design and click on the Program Motif such as French Knot icon to change the stitch style for this design. Under the Properties field change Type to Candlewick.



To add a monogram to the center of the design, click on Create Letters icon. Type in the letter and select the font from the list of lettering styles. In the sample, the Designer's Gallery Rom. Dreamy font was used. Resize the letter so it fits comfortably inside the appliquéd square.

Save the design as a working and stitch file and give the design a name. Save to the location of choice.

At the Embroidery Machine

Center the marked chevron fabric in the 200mm x 200mm hoop with the Tear-Away Stabilizer. Place the hoop on the embroidery unit. Retrieve the monogram design from the saved location. Click on Set.

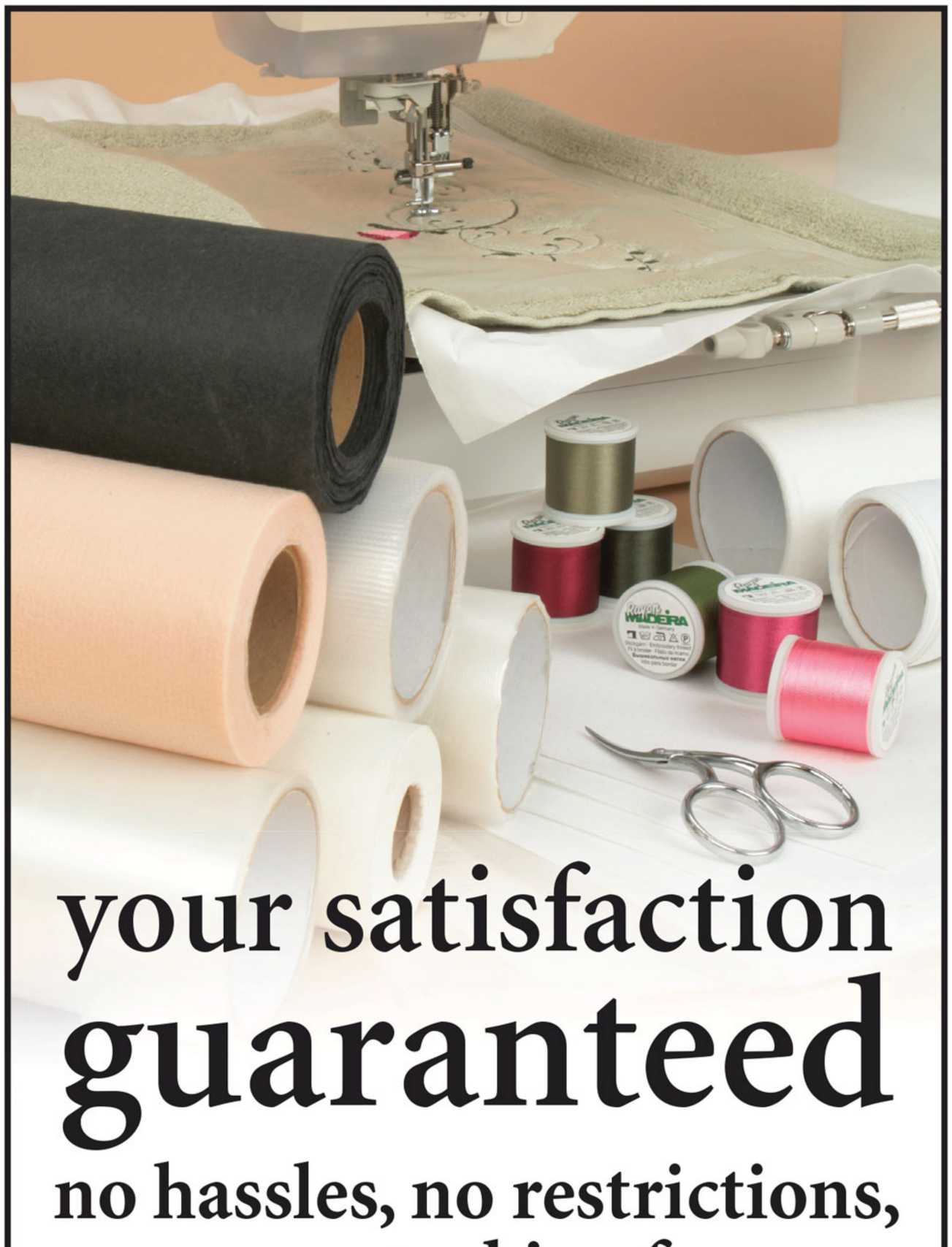
Reposition the design as needed to center it over the mark on the hooped fabric. Click on Embroidery. The first color will be the placement stitch. When the machine stops, place the black print fabric over the stitched outline of the design. Start the machine to tack this section down. When the machine stops, remove the hoop from the embroidery unit. Do not un-hoop the fabric. Trim close to the stitch line. Place

the hoop back on the embroidery unit and start the machine. This color stop is creating the satin stitch. The next color stop is for the candlewicking stitch. The last color will embroider the letter. Both the letter and the candlewicking stitch should be the same color. Remove the embroidery from the hoop along with the embroidery unit. Repeat for the remaining placemats.

Finishing

On a flat work surface, make a sandwich with the back of the placemat, then batting and the embroidered monogram section on the top. Spray with the temporary spray adhesive between the layers to hold the layers together. Set up the machine for sewing. Attach the Dual Feed Foot. Select the center straight stitch and set the length to 3.00mm. Quilt as desired around the embroidered monogram center. In the sample, each side of the chevron pattern was quilted. Trim the placemats to 19" x 14". Repeat for the remaining placemats.

From the remaining black print fabric, cut seven 2 ¼" wide strips across the width of the fabric. Piece the sections together to make one long strip. Press the strip lengthwise with the raw edges together. Cut one short end at a 45° angle and fold the raw edges inward. Press in place. Place the angled edge down 5" from any corner with the raw edges of the binding even with the raw edge on the right side of the placemat. Begin stitching 4" from the end of the binding strip with ¼" seam allowance. Stop and cut the thread when you get ¼" from the corner. Fold the binding up to create a 45° angle with the binding at the corner. Fold the binding down over the corner so that the long un-sewn portion of the binding is aligned with the placemat's raw edge. Continue to stitch until you get to the second corner and then repeat the prior directions for the remaining corners. When you turn the last corner, trim the edge of the un-sewn section of the binding so that it fits inside the binding at the beginning point. Stitch in place to finish. Repeat for the remaining placemats using the remaining binding.



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Good Night Pillows

By Kellie Rushing

I love the Fitzgerald font and wanted to create something to really showcase the bold letters. Since I had several ready-made tablerunners on hand, I transformed them into flanged pillows. I love to make buttonholes in my embroidery hoop. They are quick and easy, and they all end up exactly the same!

Embroidery Products

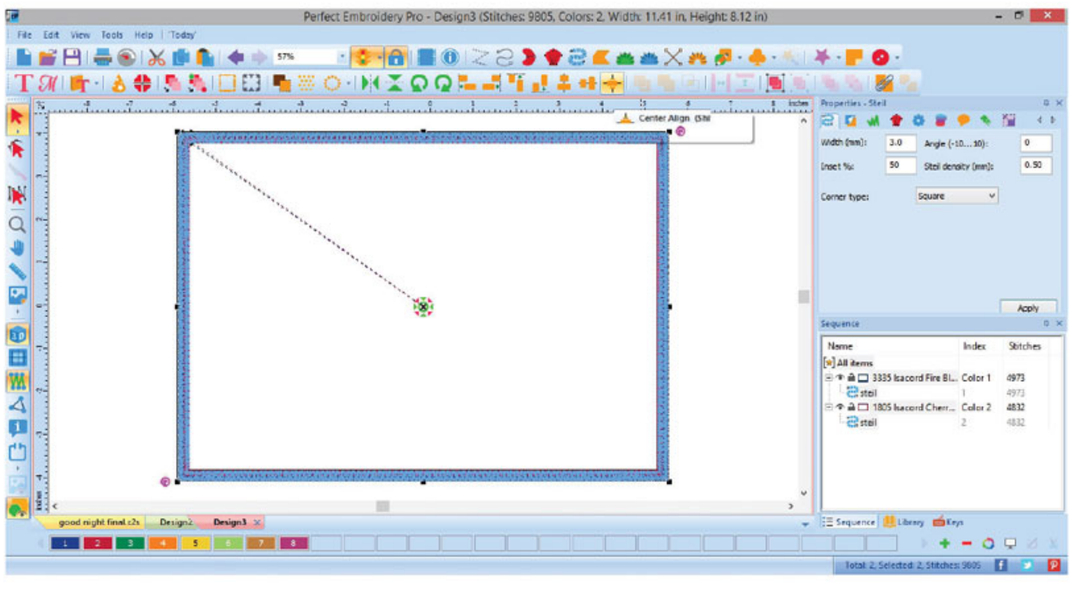
Fitzgerald Alphabet – Uppercase.
Available through Inspiration Socials events.
See pages 70-71 for an event near you!
Perfect Embroidery Pro

Materials

Black linen or cotton table runner available at
All About Blanks, www.AllAboutBlanks.com
Travel size pillow 12" x 16"
Medium weight black-tear away stabilizer
505 Temporary Spray adhesive
Organ Titanium Needles Size 75/11
Five ½" buttons
Target stickers

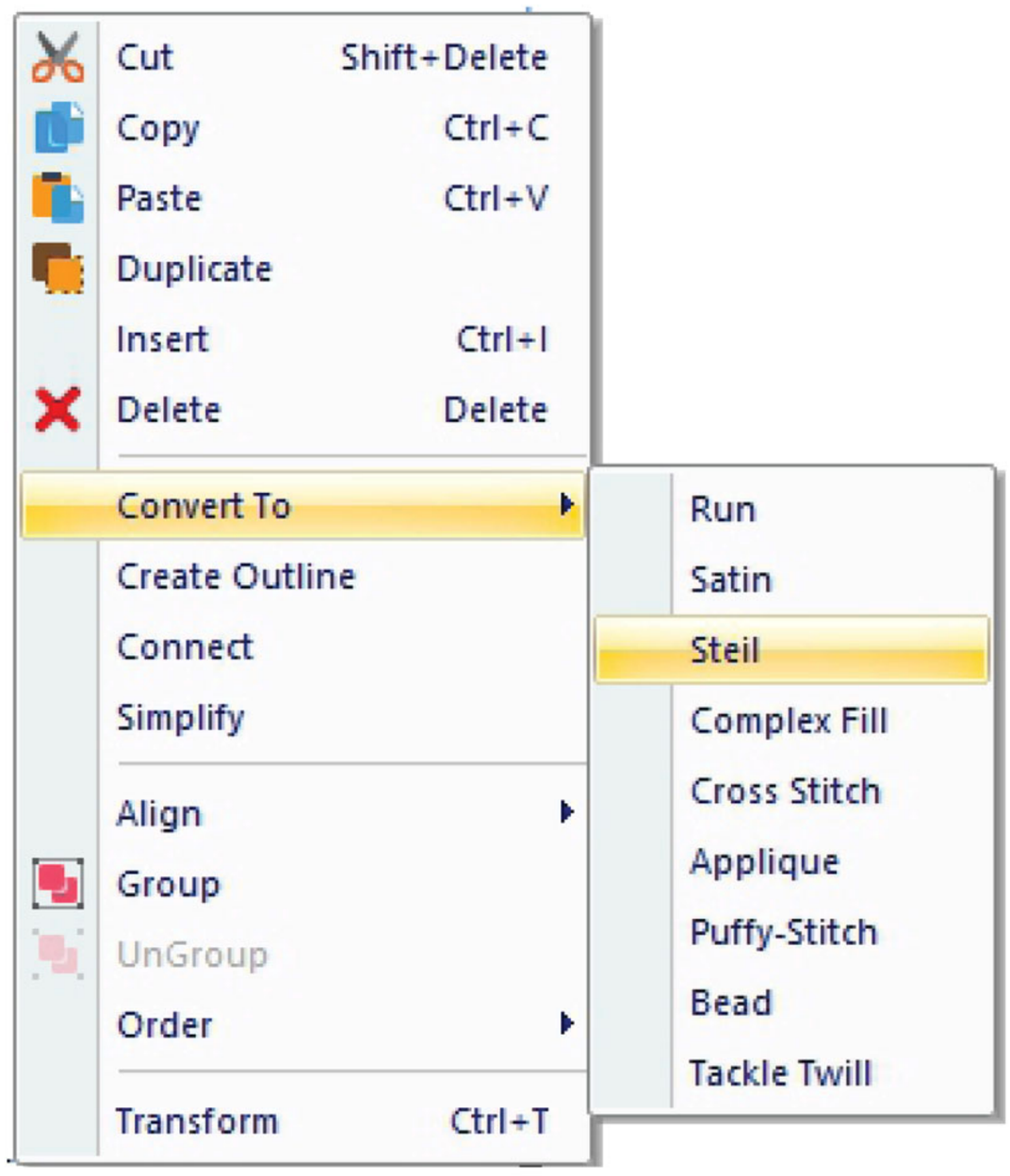
Digitize the Background

Open a new file in Perfect Embroidery Pro. Select the artwork tool. From the drop down menu, select the rectangle. Left click and drag a rectangle on the screen.



Left click the select icon and click on the transform tab in the Properties Box. Uncheck Maintain aspect ratio, change the height to 8.25" and the width to 11.5". Click on Apply.

Right click on the rectangle and select convert to Steil. In the Properties Box, change the width of the stitch to 4 mm. Click Apply.

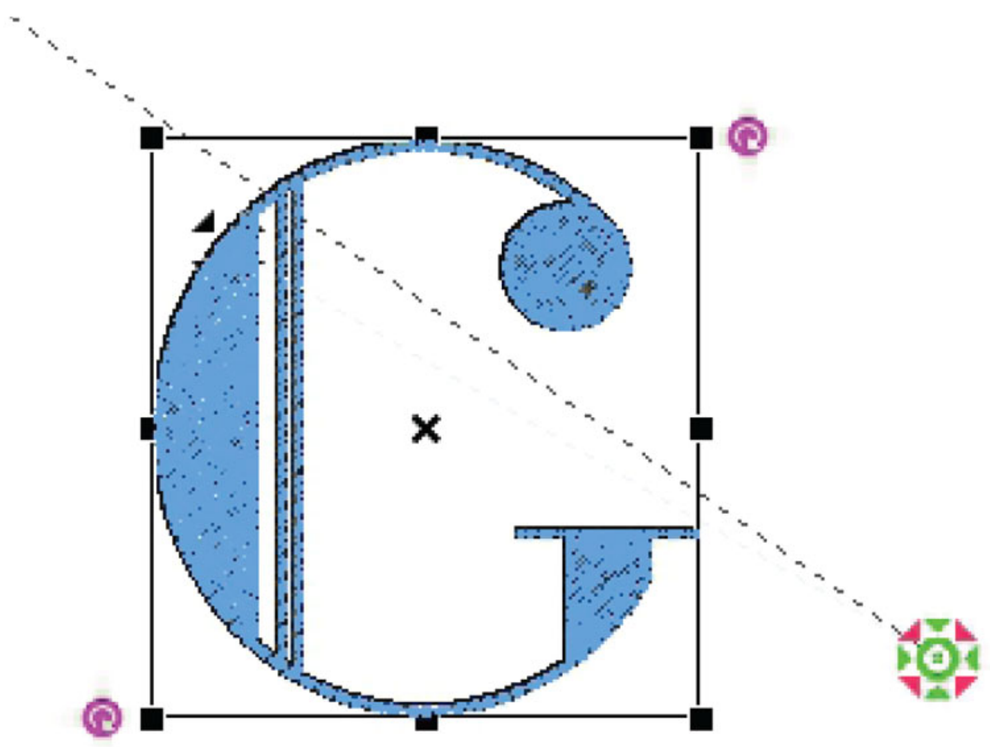


Right click Copy, right click Paste. Select Transform in the Properties Box and check the Maintain aspect ratio. Change the height to 7.71, click apply.

Paste again. Click on the command tab in the Properties Box and change the color to a new number. Change the height to 8.10", click apply. Right click and convert to Complex Fill. In the Properties Box, select the drop down arrow next to Fill Type and change to Motif. Select the drop down arrow next to Pattern and change to 100. Change pattern length to 20 and click apply.

Select all and click on Center Align. Select the third rectangle and click on the Move to Back icon.

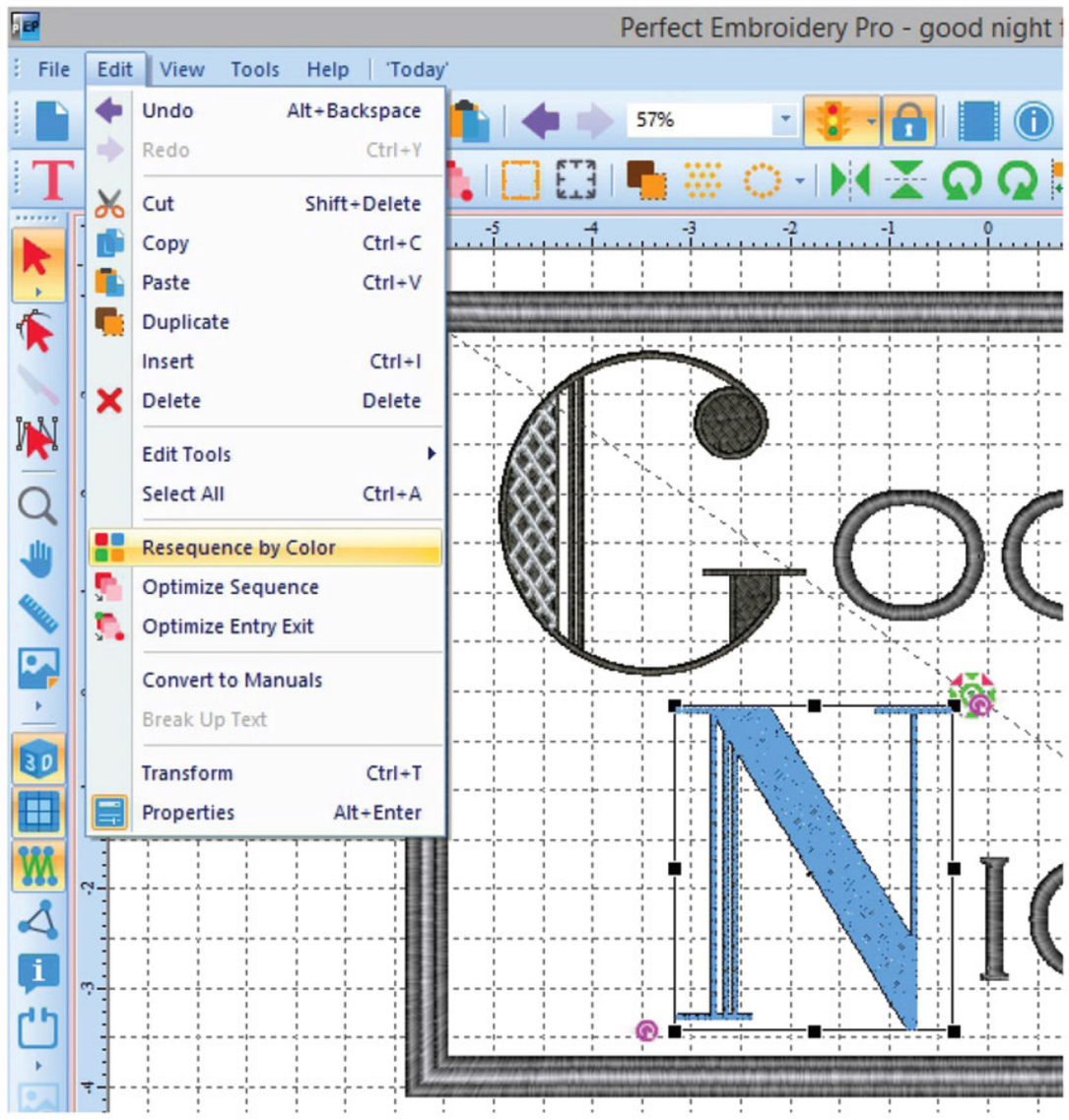
Select the Library icon in the lower right corner to access the Fitzgerald folder. Click and drag the letter "G" on to the screen.



Change the height to 3.25". Click apply. Move the "G" to the upper left corner of the rectangle. Click and drag the letter "N" on to the screen. Change the height to 3.25" and click apply. Move the "N" under and to the right of the "G". Use the photo as a guide.

Select the Lettering tool. Click on the screen. In the Properties Box, put a check in the True Type box. Click the drop down menu and select Copperplate Gothic or one similar. In the Properties Box, type "OOD" in caps. Change height to 1.25 and click apply.

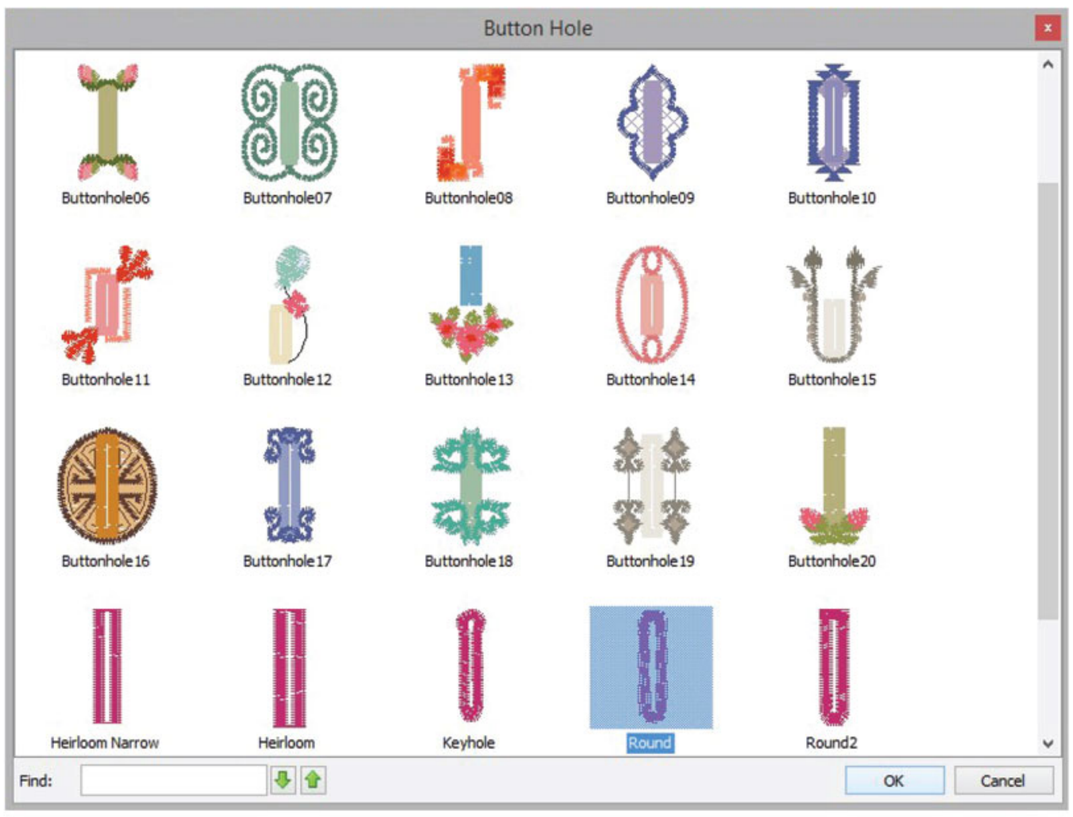
Turn on the grid to help with placement. Left click and drag lettering next to the "G".



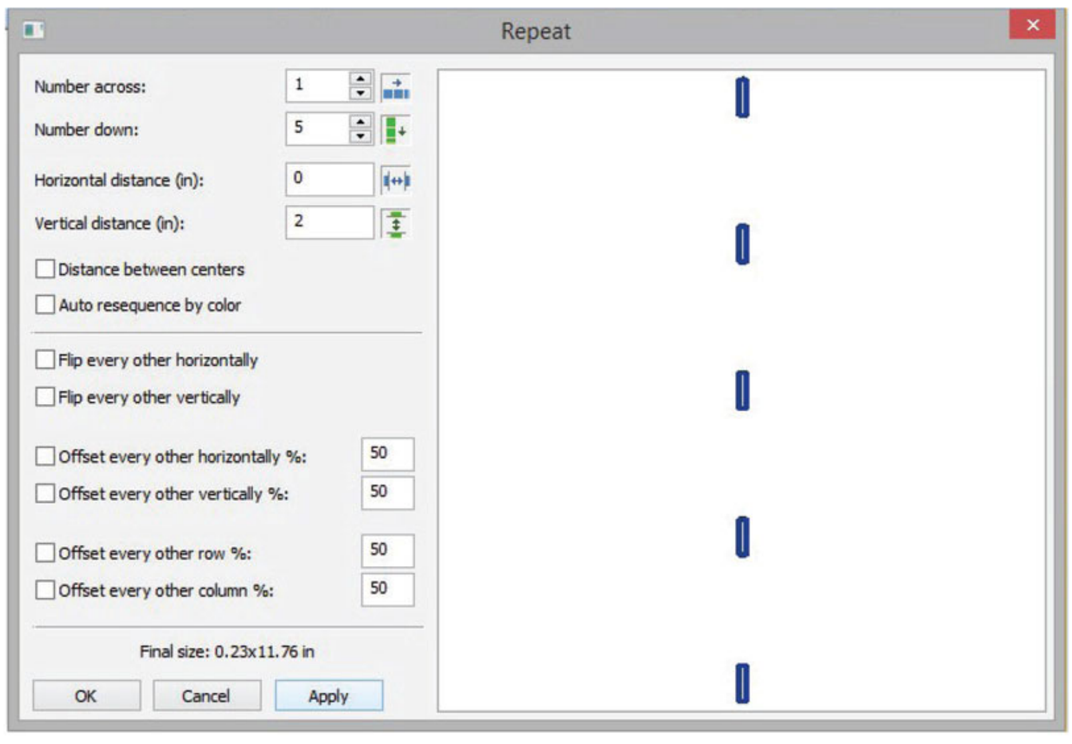
Choose the lettering tool again and type "IGHT" in the Properties Box. Change height to 1.25" and click apply. Arrange lettering next to the "N". Click on Edit / Resequence by color. This will keep color changes to a minimum. Save your design in your machine format.

Create the Buttonholes

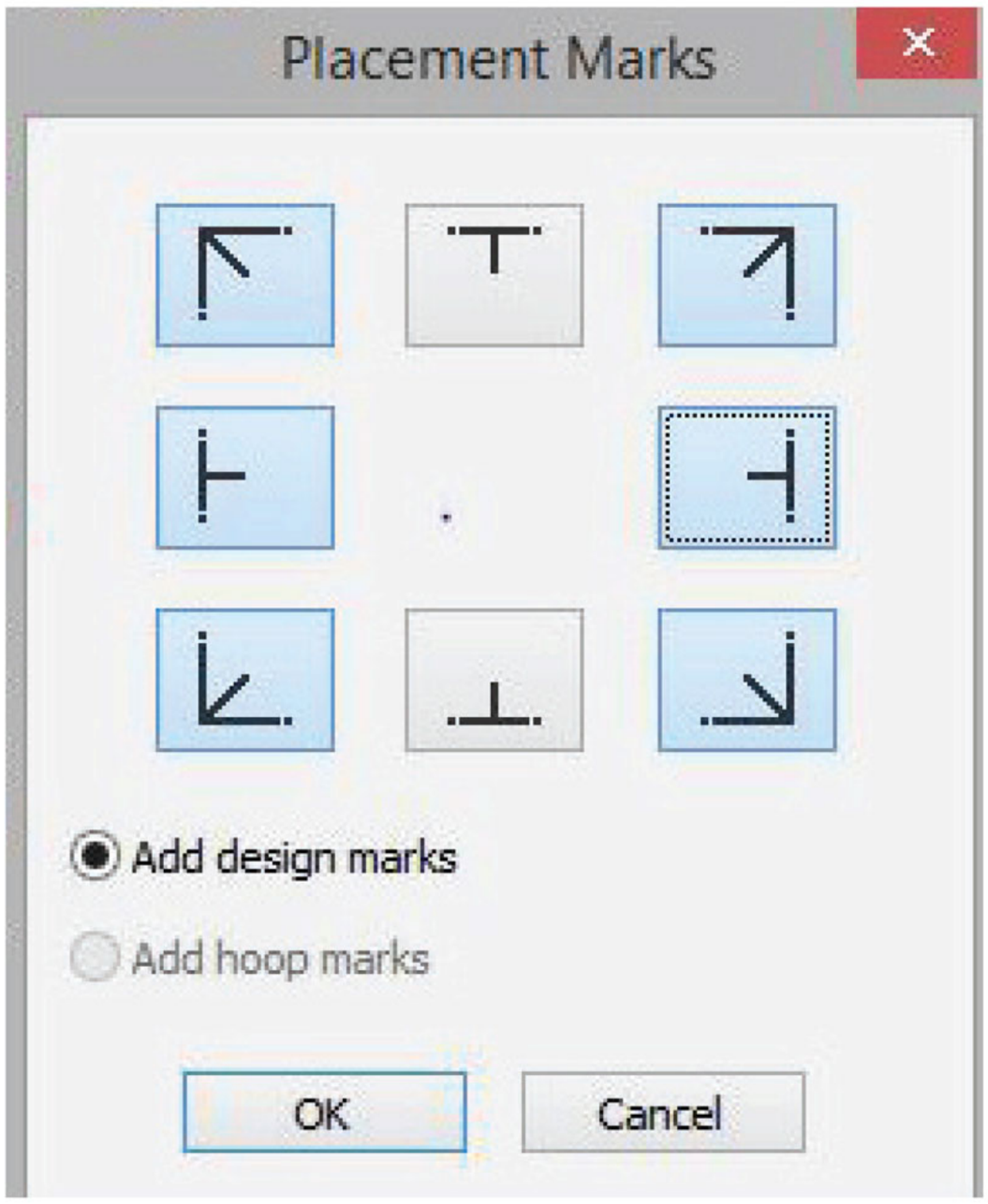
Select the Buttonhole icon. Click on Select. Choose buttonhole round.



Click OK. Change height to .75. Click apply. Click on screen to create one buttonhole. Click on the Select arrow. Select the Repeat icon. Change number across to 1, change number down to 5 and change vertical distance to 2. Select apply. Select OK.

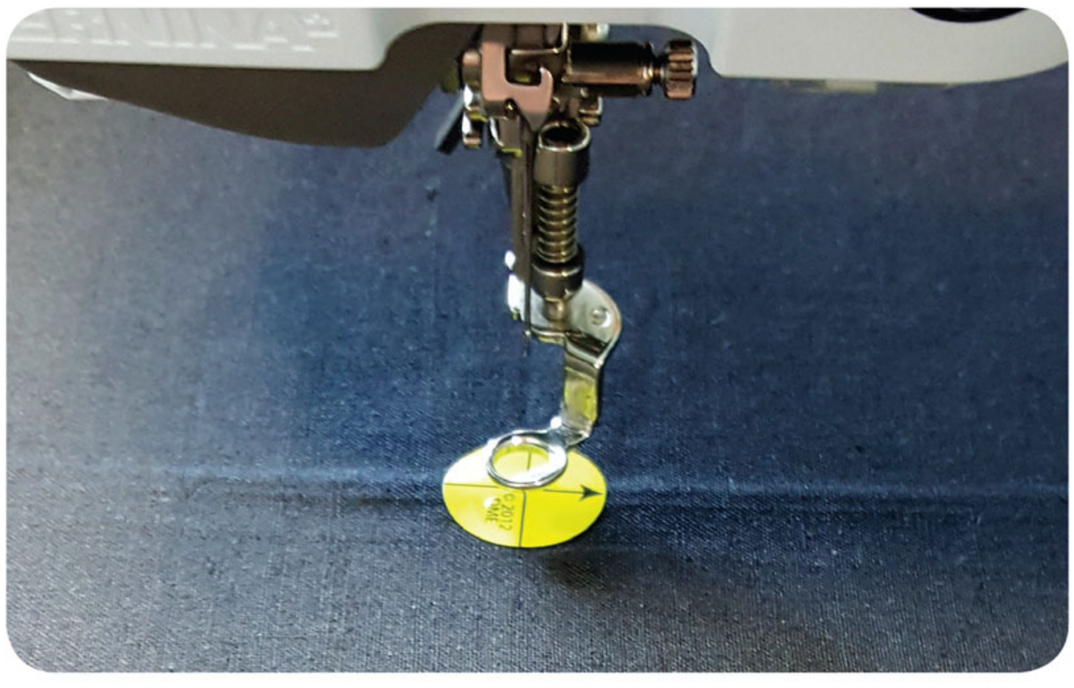


Select the Placement Marks icon and click on the four corners. Click OK.



Stitch the Embroidery

Mark center of table runner, using a Target Sticker. Spray stabilizer with temporary adhesive and attach it to the wrong side of the runner. Hoop the runner and stabilizer, centering the target sticker.



Stitch the Good Night design. Unhoop and trim the threads and stabilizer.

Mark the location of the first buttonhole.

Hoop stabilizer for the buttonholes. Stitch the first color, the placement marks, on the stabilizer. Remove hoop from the machine and spray the hooped stabilizer with 505. Align the mark on the table runner for the first buttonhole with the placement marks. Finger press the table runner to the sticky stabilizer. Complete the buttonholes.

Unhoop and trim stabilizer. Carefully cut the buttonholes open.

Another buttonhole option

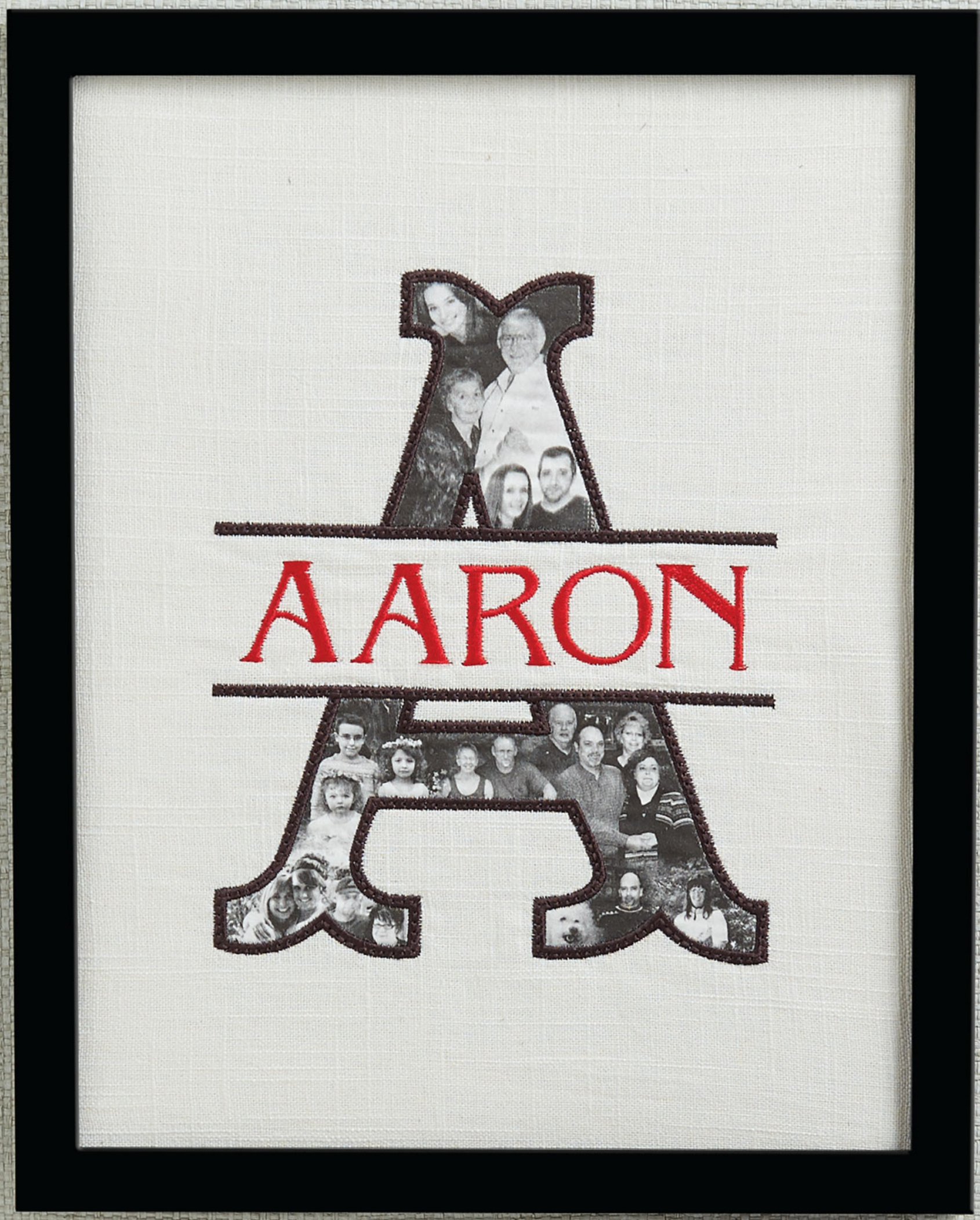
Sew the Table Runner into a Pillow

Fold the runner, wrong sides together, 12 ½" from each short end and press a crease in runner.
On the end where the buttons will go, turn under 1 ½" and press.

Top stitch with an edgestitch foot.

Mark the location of the buttons and sew them onto the pillow back. Button the pillow back.
Create the flange by sewing across the top and bottom of the runner, matching the topstitching that is already there. Sew down each side 1 ½" from the fold.

Unbutton the buttons and insert the pillow.


AARON

What's in a Name?

A Whole Lot of Love!

By Debbie Henry

How do you make an applique monogram extraordinary? By creating your own applique fabric featuring photos of loved ones for a split monogram. A split monogram is usually a giant single-letter applique monogram offset by a middle section that displays first names, family names, or sentiments like "welcome."

Arrange photos using your applique template so that, with digital textile printing, it becomes the perfect, personalized accent. This technique produces beautiful tribute gifts for weddings, anniversaries, births, and other special occasions. The best part? It will be the only gift of its kind!

Embroidery Products

Applique monogram design of your choice. I used the 8" Split Tuscan Alphabet available at Embroidery Boutique, *www.EmbroideryBoutique.com*

Embrilliance or other embroidery editing software

Photo editing software. I used a free program, Pixlr Editor, *www.Pixlr.com*.

Materials

½ yd. background fabric

Fat quarter of photo fabric available at My Fabric Designs, *www.MyFabricDesigns.com*

Armo Weft fusible interfacing

Sulky Soft 'n Sheer mesh cut-away stabilizer

½ yd. Lite Steam-A-Seam 2

ODIF 505 Spray and Fix temporary spray adhesive

Schmetz Microtex Sharp 80/12 needle

16" photo frame

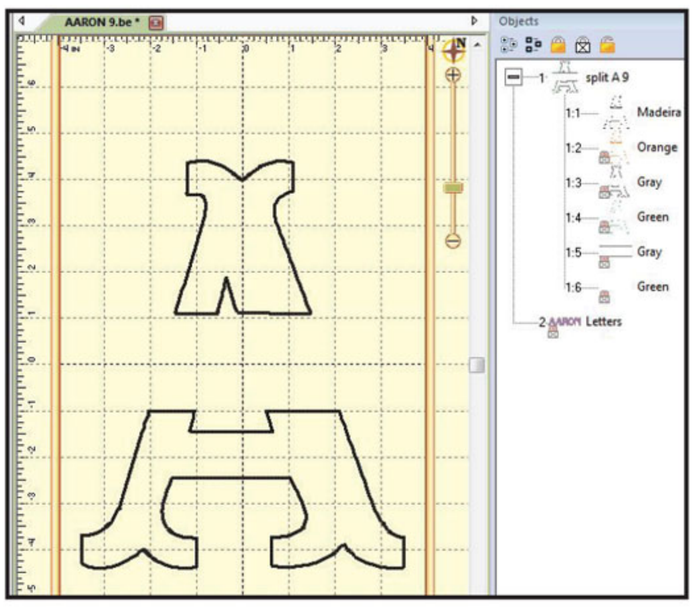
Preparing Photos

Black and white photos were used for this project although you could use color images. Photos should be in sharp focus, properly exposed, and have good contrast. Resolution must be print quality, a minimum of 300 DPI. Avoid using social media photos as they have a low resolution. If scanning images, adjusting the descreening setting will help with overall quality.

Raw images can be resized to 300 dpi without losing quality, so work with the original digital photo whenever possible. Use a photo editing program for converting color images to grayscale and resizing, if necessary.

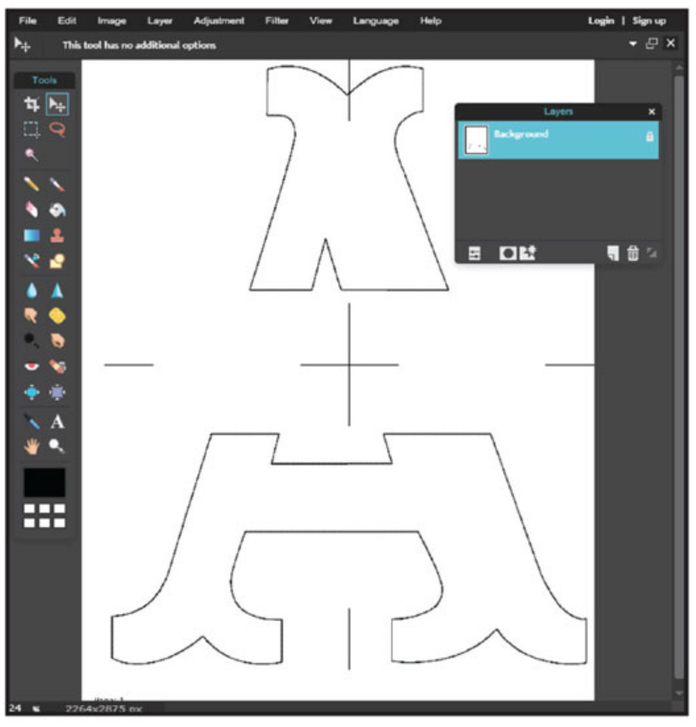
Create the Appliqué Template

All applique embroidery designs contain a placement outline that will be covered by the applique fabric. By creating a template of this outline, you have a digital stencil that will help with photo placement.



Open the monogram design in Embrilliance or other embroidery editing software. Isolate the placement stitch outline and create a PDF template. In photo editing software, open the PDF template and save it as "template.JPG."

Step 1. Design the Photo Appliqué

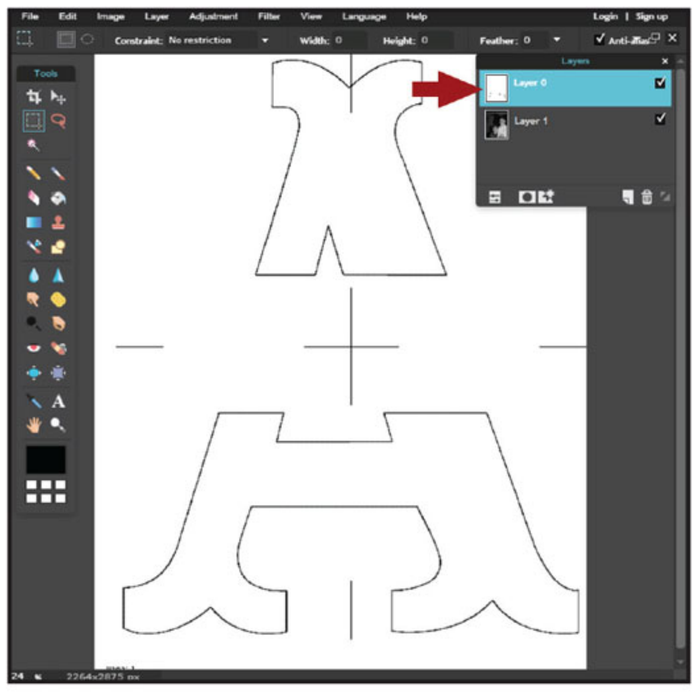


In Pixlr Editor, open the "template.JPG" file. It shows up as the Background layer image.

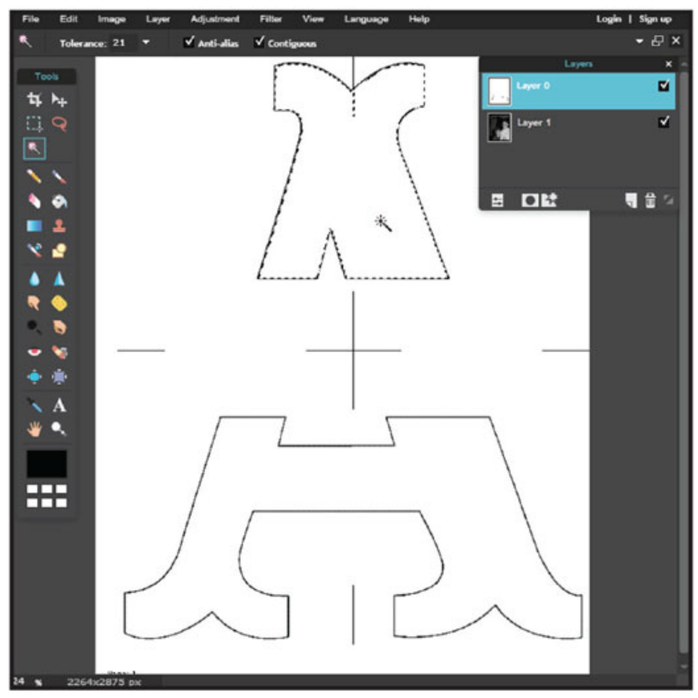
Step 2. Add the First Photo

Open the first photo you want to place. Use the marquee tool to draw a box around the photo to select it, copy it, and paste it into the template window. It becomes Layer 1.

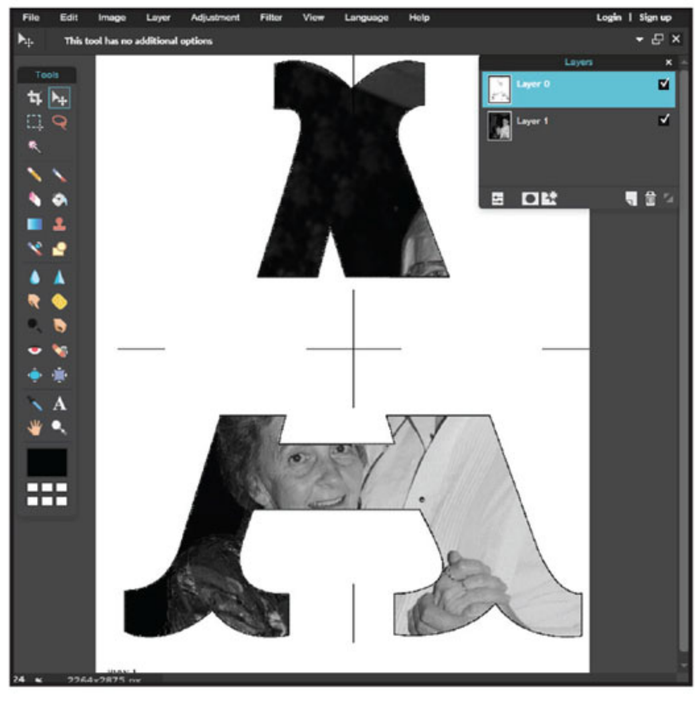
Step 3. Make the Template a Stencil



Click on the lock icon on the Background layer (the template) to unlock it. It now becomes Layer 0. Click on it and drag it above Layer 1. The applique template now shows on screen, in front of the recently added photo.



Select the wand tool and click inside the template outline, and hit the "Delete" key. Because my template was split, I also deleted the inside area of the bottom alphabet piece.



The stencil is complete. The first photo shows through but is way too large, so it needs to be resized.

Step 4. Resize and Adjust the Photo

Click on Layer 1 to adjust the photo. Choose "Edit, Free Transform" and a box with sizing handles shows around the photo. The template stencil is still in the foreground. Use it as a guide for sizing and moving the photo to fit within the applique area.

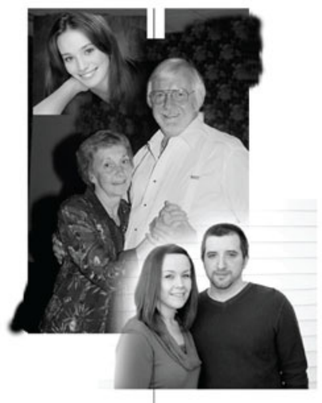
Note: Don't worry if there are blank areas. You can fill them in with other photos along the way. Be sure to keep faces well inside the lines because satin stitching will finish the applique edges.

Step 5. Add More Photos

Open the next photo, copy and paste it into the template file. Resize the photo to fit inside the lines and move it around until it looks right. Use the marquee tool and eraser tool to remove areas of the photo that overlap other photos. A feathering setting helps soften edges so photos blend together.

Continue with other photos until the applique template is filled with photos.

Step 6. Removing the Stencil Overlay



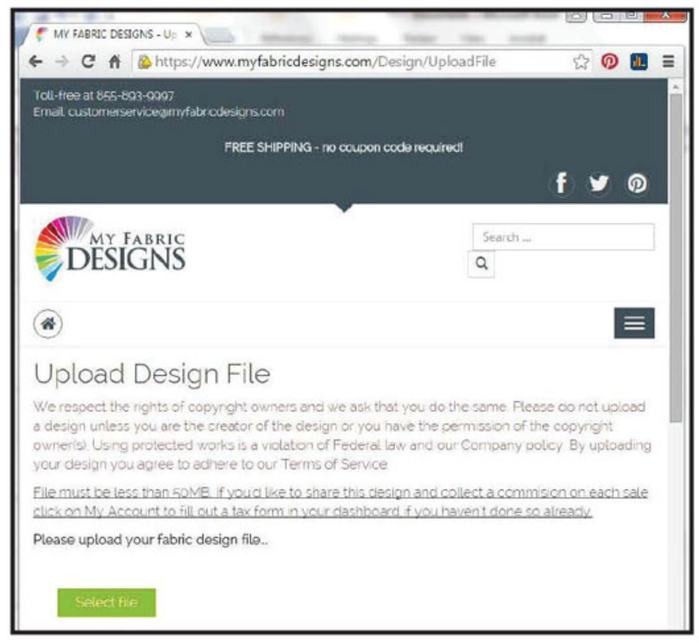
When you are satisfied with the arrangement, select Layer 0 (the template) and delete the white area using the marquee and wand tools. Be sure to leave the crosshairs because they will make centering the applique fabric in the hoop much easier.

Don't worry about the messy edges. They will be cut away during the applique process after the tackdown stitch.

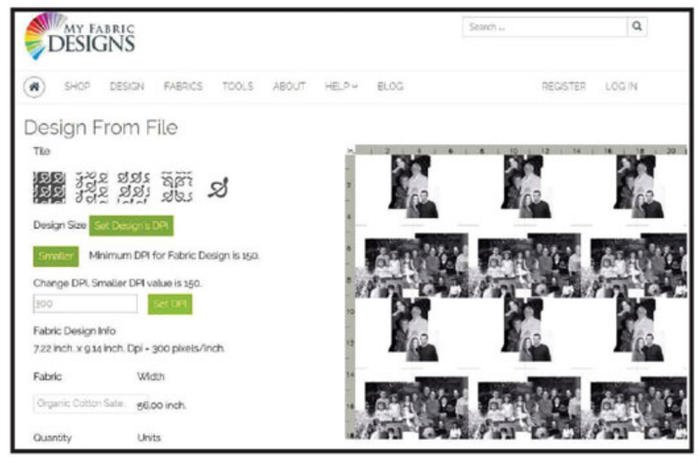
Merge layers and your applique fabric file is ready to upload for printing.

Step 7. Ordering Fabric

MyFabricDesigns.com prints artwork on 26 different fabric types. You can design your own traditional fabric, choose a design on the site, or create specialty fabric like this one for a personalized gift.



Select the image from your computer to upload to the site.

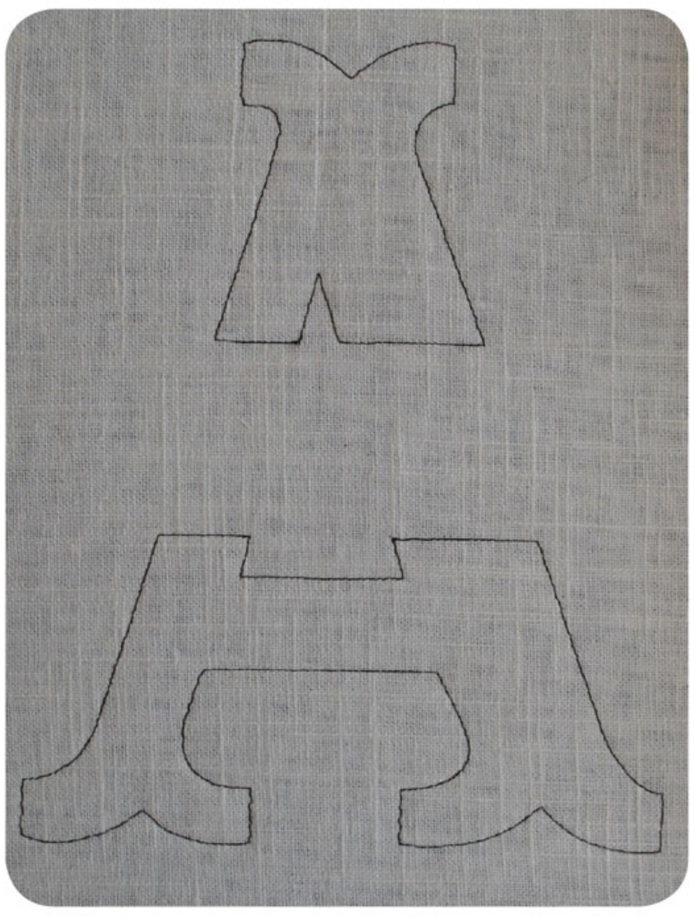


I chose default tiling and changed the DPI to 300. Because heavier textures would distort the photographs, I chose organic cotton sateen for its smooth surface and soft drape. Fabrics arrive in seven to 10 days.

Stitching the Monogram

Step 1. Stabilize and Hoop

Press your base fabric and iron Armo Weft fusible interfacing to the back. Spray one side of mesh cutaway stabilizer with 505 adhesive and smooth it on the back of the interfacing. Hoop, right side up, and begin stitching the monogram.

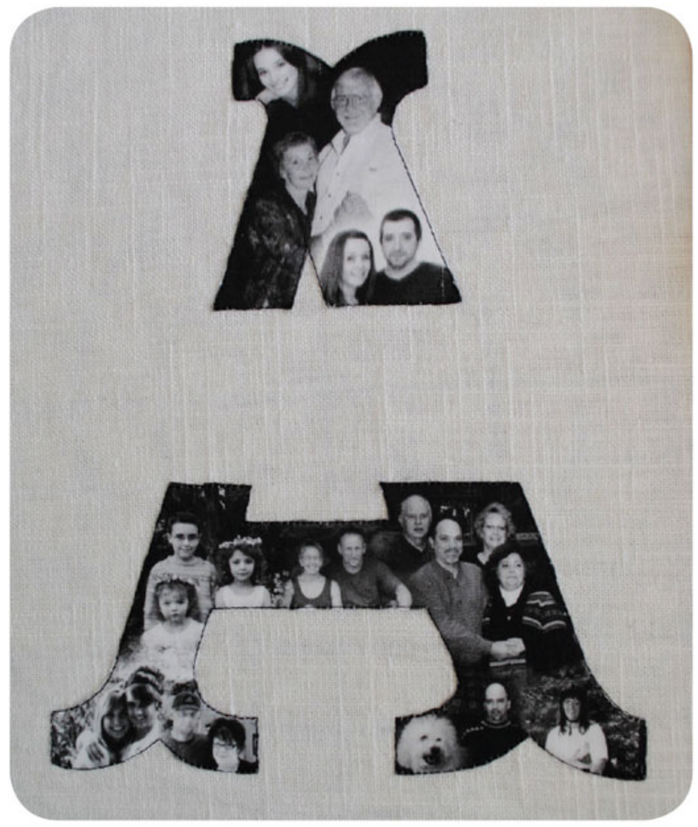


The first color stop is the placement stitch. Look familiar? That's what was used to create the stencil template.

Step 2. Prepare the Applique

Cut one applique unit from the printed fabric. Cut a piece of Lite Steam-A-Seam 2 to size and fuse it to the back of the applique fabric.

Place the applique fabric in the hoop, on the background fabric, lining up crosshair marks with hoop marks. Hold the hoop up to the light to be sure photos are within the placement stitch area. Put the hoop back on the machine and stitch the applique tackdown stitches.



Remove the hoop and trim excess applique fabric close to the stitch line. Use a mini iron to press in the hoop, sealing the applique fabric to the background fabric.

Put the hoop back on the machine and finish stitching the monogram.

Place the finished piece in a frame, and you have a personalized monogram like no other!

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Fringe is Back!

By Marie Zinno

Fringe is hot this year, you'll see it on purses, jackets and belts. I wanted to create a unique embroidered fringe belt and decided to use a faux suede fabric instead of real leather. The fringe is actually real leather repurposed from a thrift store purse. If you're searching for purse hardware, webbing or handles take a look at your local thrift store and you will be amazed at all the possibilities at a very low price.

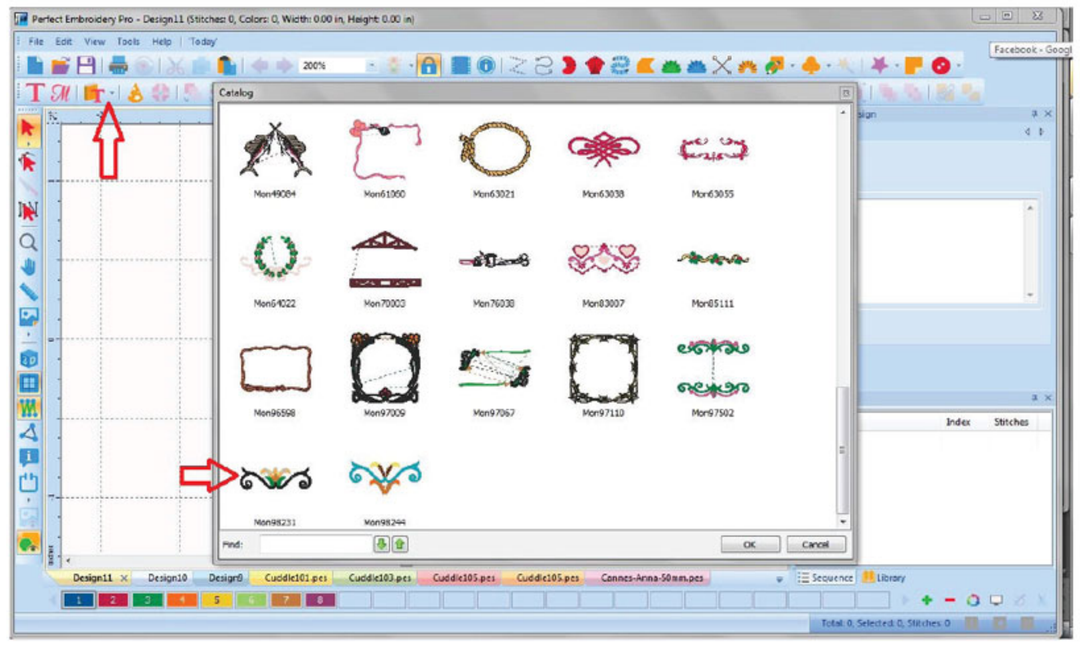
Embroidery Products

Perfect Embroidery Pro Software

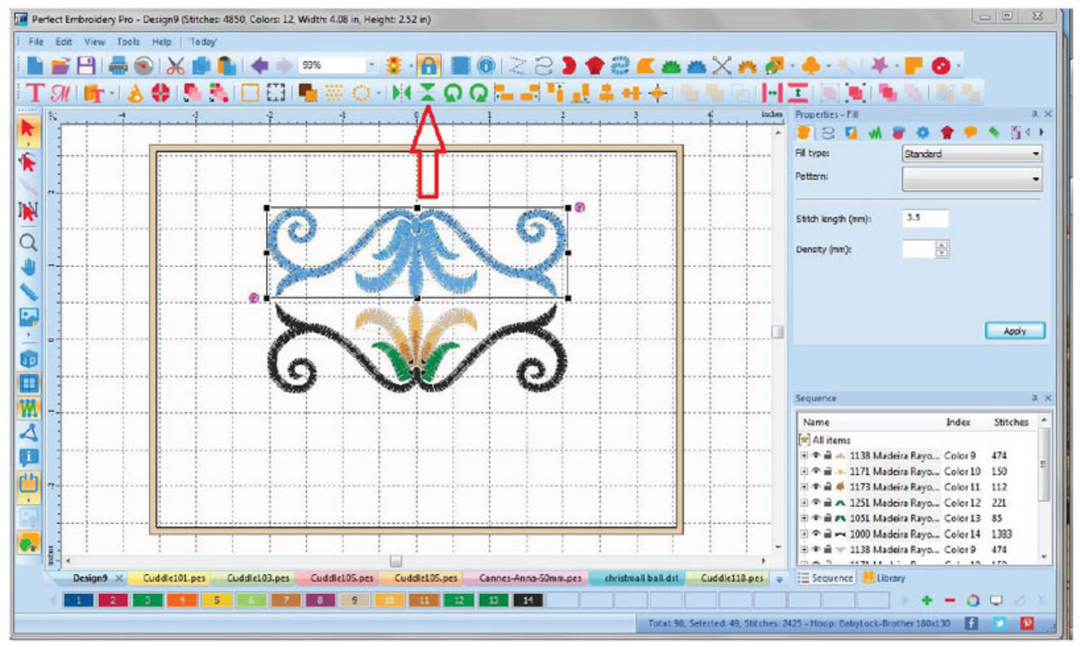
Supplies

Faux suede fabric - exact measurement to be determined by length of finished belt. Add approximately 6" to the length measurement for looping the belt. Cut fabric wide enough to fit in large hoop and trim excess after embroidery.
Purchased leather fringe (my sample was recycled from a thrift store garment)
1 yd. lightweight fusible interfacing
One 3" round belt ring
Soft tear-away stabilizer
Blue painter's tape

Open a new file in Perfect Embroidery Pro. Select the Monogram design tool and click on design #98231.

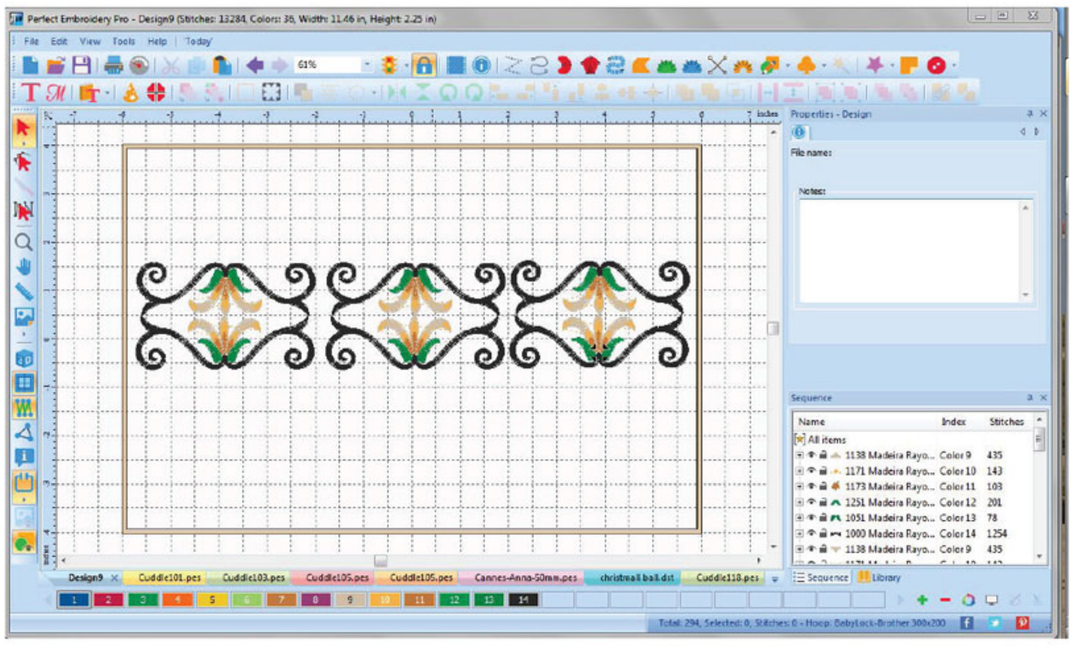


Select the design, copy and paste one repeat. Mirror image the second repeat.



Make note of the size of the design. The mirrored designs must fit on the 3" wide belt. Our sample design is 2.52" x 4.08". Determine how many repeats are needed to embroider the entire length of the belt. If your waist measures 30" plus 6" (36"), divide 36/4= 9 repeats of the 4" design. Copy both repeats and paste two copies to fill your largest hoop. Position the designs in a horizontal row.

We stitched three hoopings to fill the belt.



Save the design and print a template.

Iron the fusible interfacing to the faux suede fabric along the top ½ portion. The remaining fabric will be used as the lining for the belt.

Position the template at one end of the faux suede fabric. Hoop tear-away stabilizer and the faux suede fabric in your large hoop. Make sure to start embroidery at one end of the fabric and progress to the opposite end. Stitch the first design.

Remove the fabric from the hoop and place it on a flat work surface. Position two long sections of blue painters tape along the top and bottom areas of the embroidery design. The blue tape will work as straight reference marks to align the remaining embroidery designs as you embroider along the fabric. Place the printed template within the painter's tape for the next hooping.

After all embroidery is complete, remove fabric from hoop and tear the excess stabilizer from the wrong side of the fabric. Lay the embroidered section on a cutting mat. Use a quilter's ruler to trim the belt to 3 ½" wide by the desired length. Be careful not to trim too close to embroidery. Cut the remaining section of fabric to the same measurements. Sew with right sides together, leaving 5" open at one section to turn right side out. Top stitch along both sewn seams in matching thread and place the fringe portion into the open end. Sew closed. Add the round metal ring (3" diameter) to the opposite end of belt. Wear belt in a looped fashion.

Get the Scoop on Hooping!

Hoop It Up

By Eileen Roche and Marie Zinno

Includes 99 Tips!

Bonus! Inside you'll find six embroidery positioning tools you can use again and again!

- Angle Finder
- 4" Target Ruler (two versions)
- 7" Target Ruler (two versions)
- Target Stickers

SHOES Slippers Shirt Pocket Apron Napkins Hat

Hooping an item correctly is an important beginning step to getting a professionally embroidered design. But with the many different items to embroider and the variety of hoops available, knowing which hoop to use and how to hoop any given item can be challenging.

In *Hoop It Up*, the Stitching Sisters, Eileen Roche and Marie Zinno, take the confusion out of hooping. They've pooled their years of embroidery experience to share their best practices for embroidering over 30 popular items.

First Eileen and Marie will explain the different approaches to hooping—the tried and true standard hoop, the user-friendly magnetic hoop, the on-the-edge border hoop, and the sticky stabilizer route. You'll also learn about a variety of embroidery tools, like the Angle Finder and Hoop Guard, which can make the task of hooping so much easier and more accurate.

Next you'll learn step by step how to hoop over 30 items, both flat and tubular. From napkins, bibs, and blankets to baby onesies, T-shirts, and hats, you'll see how to plan the embroidery for each item and how to control the variables to ensure success.

Take the confusion and frustration out of hooping with *Hoop It Up!*

"The methods and techniques you'll find in **Hoop It Up** are techniques that we use in our studios every day. They work for us, and we're confident they'll work for you, too."—**Eileen Roche**

Available at your local dealer!

Modern Monograms on Vintage Linens

By Eileen Roche

Embroidery Products

Avant Garde Monogram Set 1 Font available at Embroidery Arts, www.EmbroideryArts.com
Perfect Embroidery Pro digitizing software

Supplies

Hand embroidered vintage pillowcase
Tear-away stabilizer
Madeira Aerofil 100% polyester thread

Vintage linens, cherished by many, are stashed away in attics, basements and bridal chests for years – with the intention of saving them for a special time. Rita Farro, author of *Dress Your Dream Bed* and avid vintage linen collector, taught me many years ago that 'saving items for a special time' is a waste.

More often than not, these treasures are discovered in pristine, never-been-used condition after the passing of the owner. Adult children going through the deceased's belongings, discover treasures that are still wrapped in their original packaging. It's Rita's mission to use as many vintage pillowcases, aprons, hankies and the like that she can get her hands on! In June, I received a package from Rita with four elegant hand-embroidered pillowcases that she recently scored at an estate sale. When I opened the box, I was hit with the aroma of that beautiful fresh-from-the-clothesline smell – straight from her country home in Iowa. What a delight! I was touched beyond words and determined to put them to good use.

(Off they went to the photography studio for the 'before' shot and then back to me.) I planned on monogramming and transforming them into envelope pillows. Of course, that involved a trip to my local quilt shop, Must Have Fabric in Grapevine, TX. Must Have Fabric has at least 2,000 bolts – plenty to choose from. I was on the hunt for 1930s, 40s or 50s fabrics. I could envision the type of print and color way and surveyed the shelves. I found only one bolt that would work. It was the right color, scale and motif. I smiled, tucked it under my arm and got in line at the cutting table. While waiting, I looked at the selvedge and lo and behold, it was Mary Mulari's Church Ladies Aprons fabric! How amazing is that? You see, Mary and Rita are the YaYa Sisters – wonderful and talented presenters at national sewing shows and two of my dearest friends.

Of course, not any monogram font would do. It needed to blend with the beautiful embroidery, complement the handwork and not overpower it. I turned to EmbroideryArts.com and reviewed their selection of timeless fonts. The Avant Garde Monogram Set 1 featured a spray of lilies of the valley in delicate running stitches. I thought that would be the perfect accompaniment to the handworked roses but I was wrong. I stitched a test sample of the monogram on white fabric and placed it on the pillowcase to view.

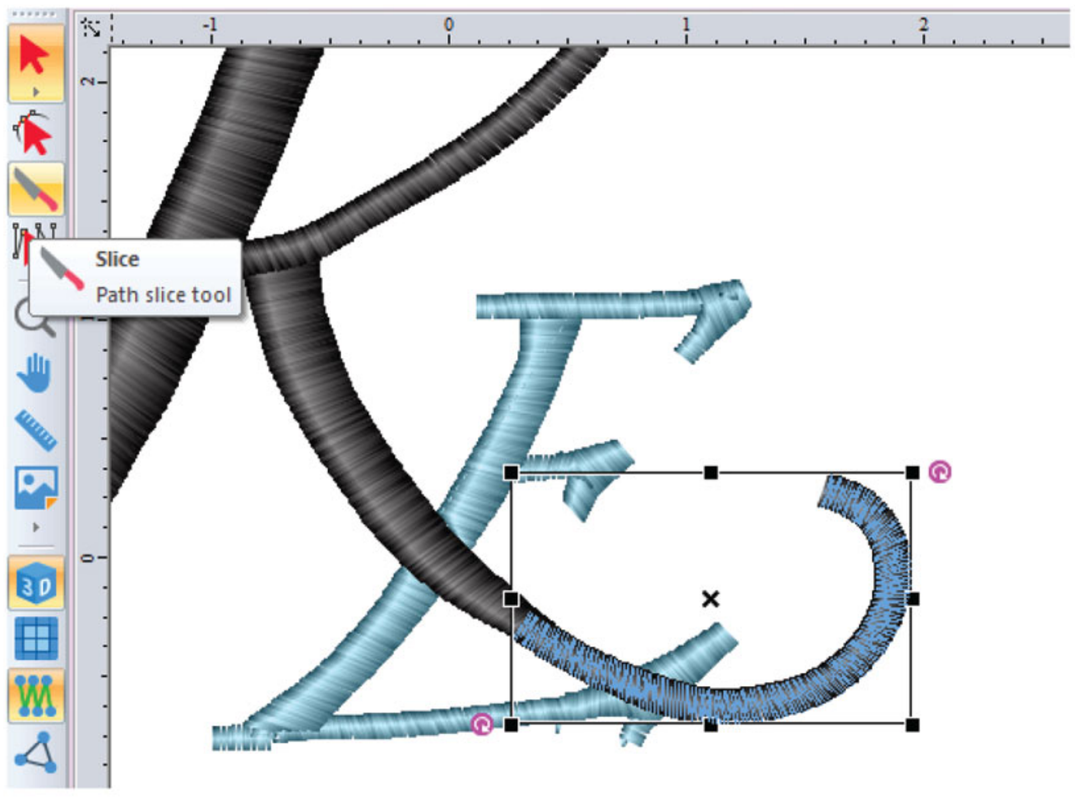
It overpowered the delicate hand stitches. The lilies were distracting so I removed the test sample and photographed the pillowcase. Then I went to my software to solve the problem. Here's how to do it: Open a new file in Perfect Embroidery Pro or other digitizing software. Import the photo as a backdrop. Click on the Backdrop tool and set the scale of the image by dragging the cursor from one edge of the pillowcase to the other. Enter the measurement of the pillowcase. To square the photo, select Set Horizon and drag the cursor along one straight edge of the pillowcase.

Open the desired letters from the Avant Garde Monogram Set 1 collection. Position them within the embroidered frame. Play with the position and size until you find a pleasing arrangement.

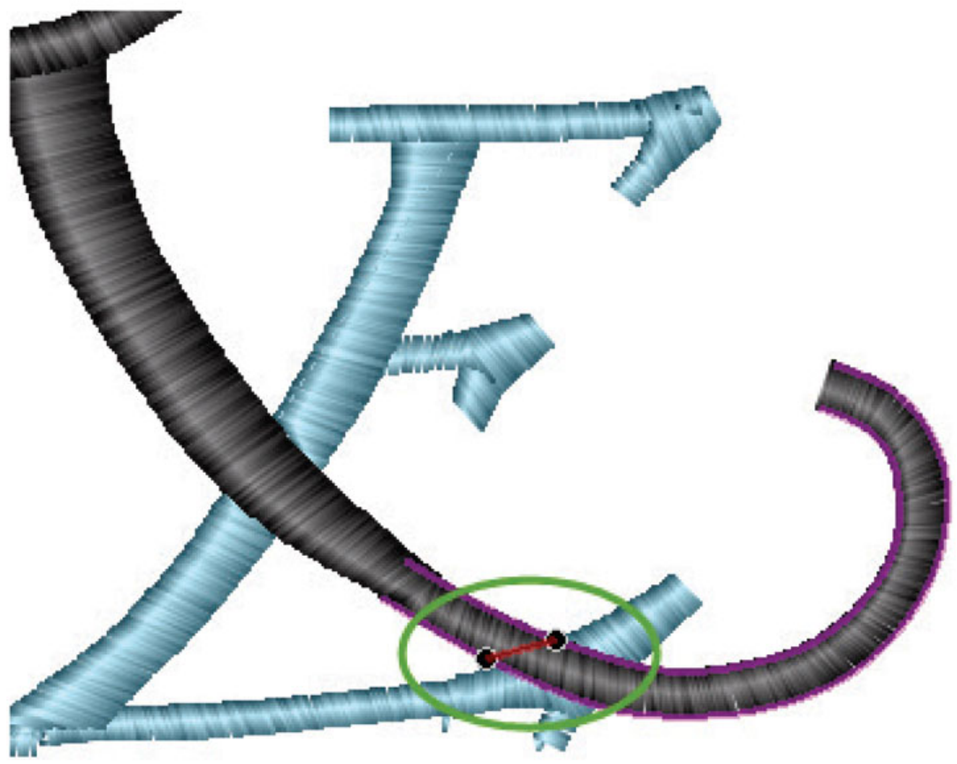
Keep each letter a different color while you edit the layout.

I liked this arrangement but wasn't quite satisfied with the overlapped letters. I wanted the letters to appear like handwork and a hand embroiderer would not stitch over satin stitches. She would begin and end at the edge of the column. A little bit of editing was in store. I must admit when I do this to professionally-digitized designs, I feel like I'm seasoning an accomplished chef's signature meal! But in this case, the monogram will benefit from the editing. The three key areas are circled in green.

Select the lower portion of the K and click on the Slice tool.

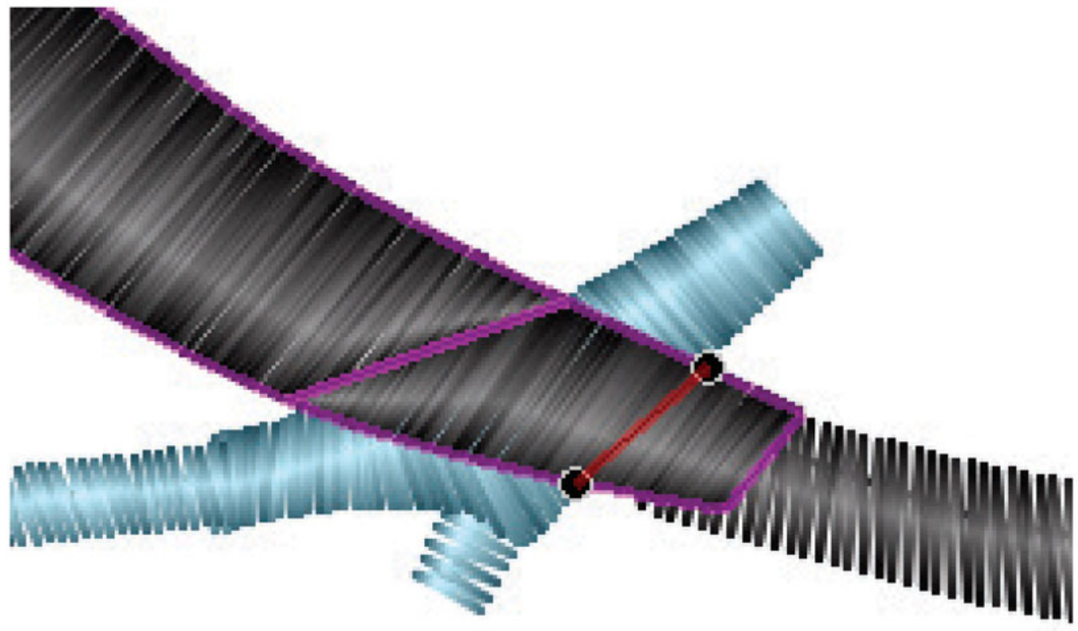


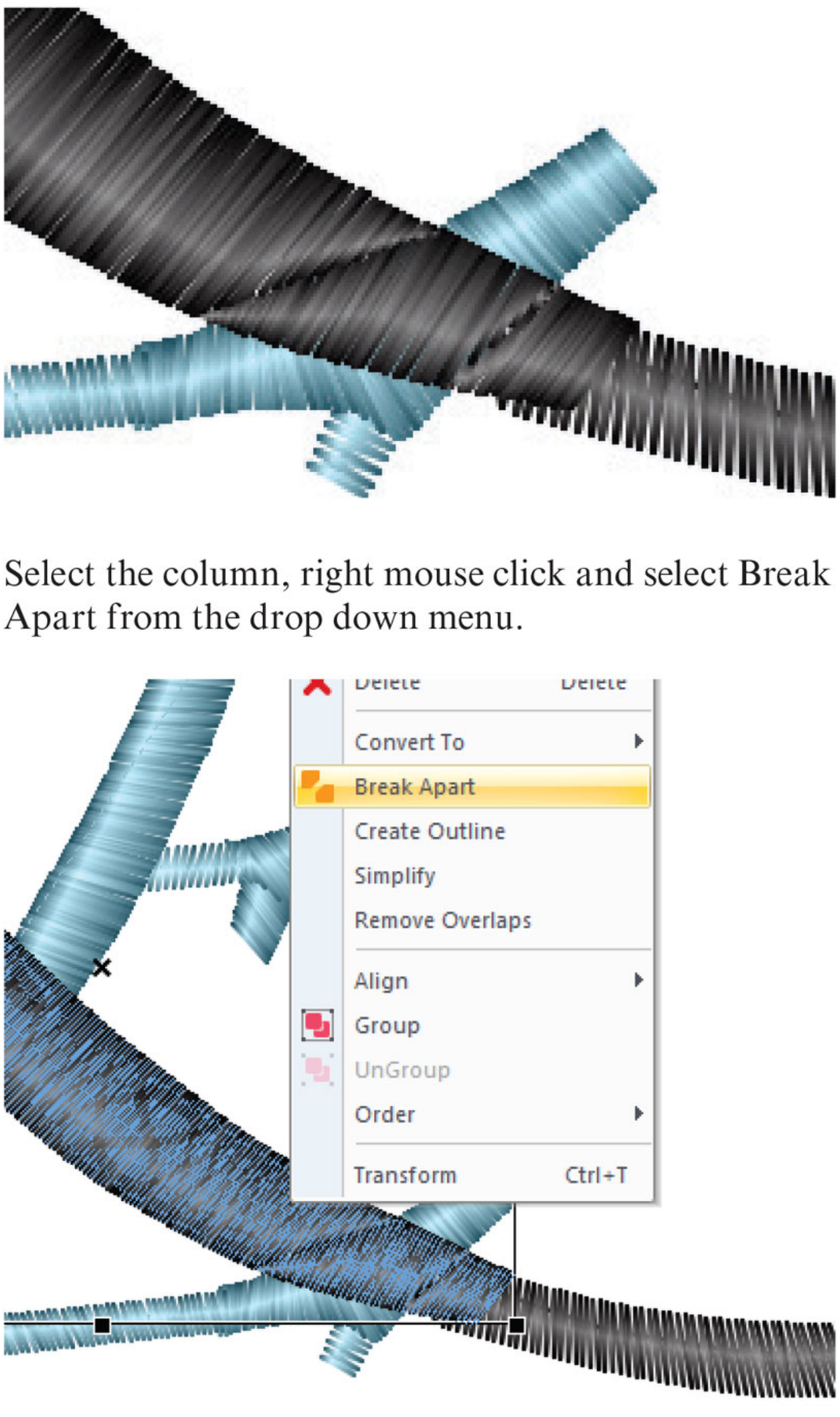
Left mouse click at one edge of the satin column where you want the split to occur.



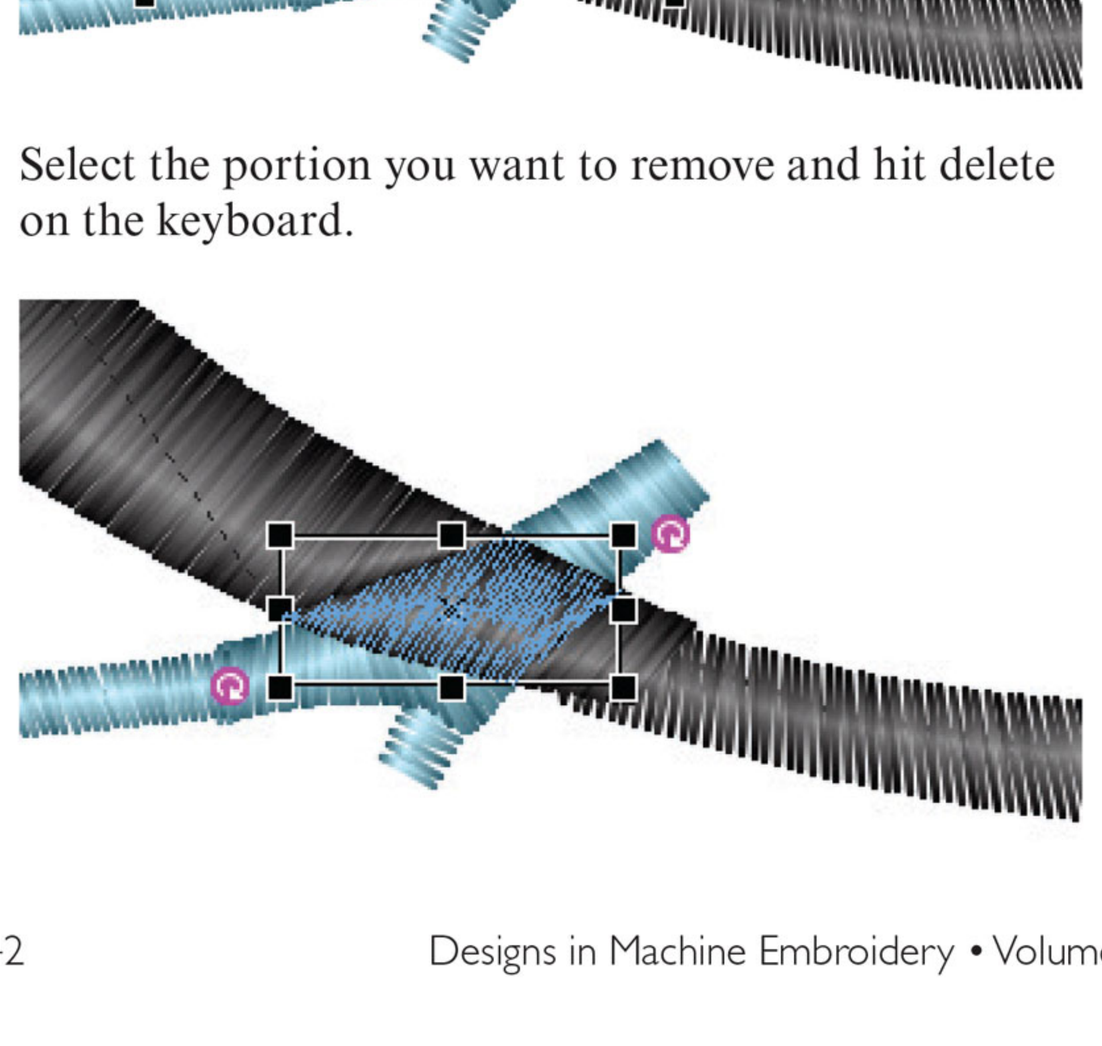
Drag across the column and hit the Enter key.

Repeat at the other side of the overlapping column.





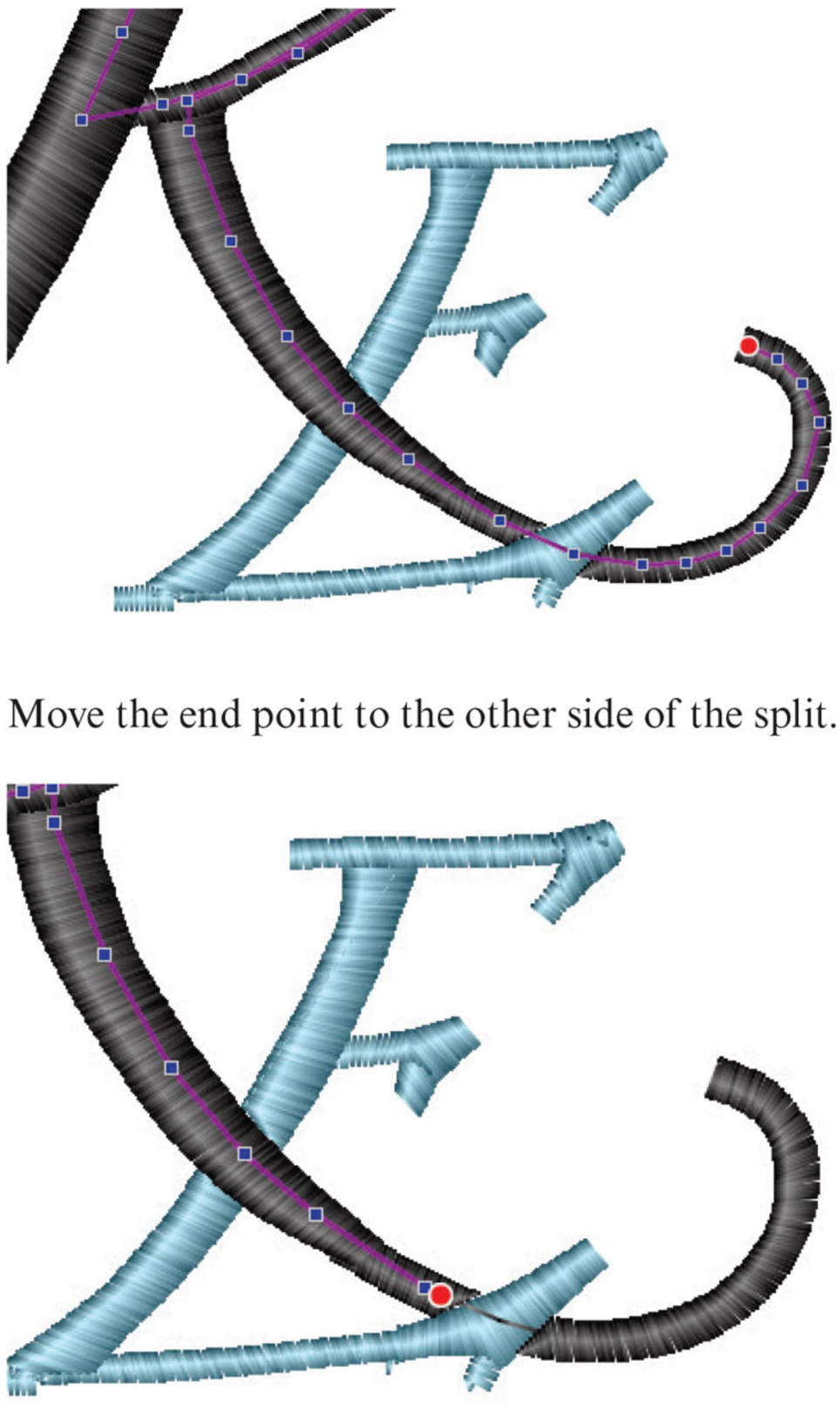
Select the column, right mouse click and select Break Apart from the drop down menu.



Select the portion you want to remove and hit delete on the keyboard.

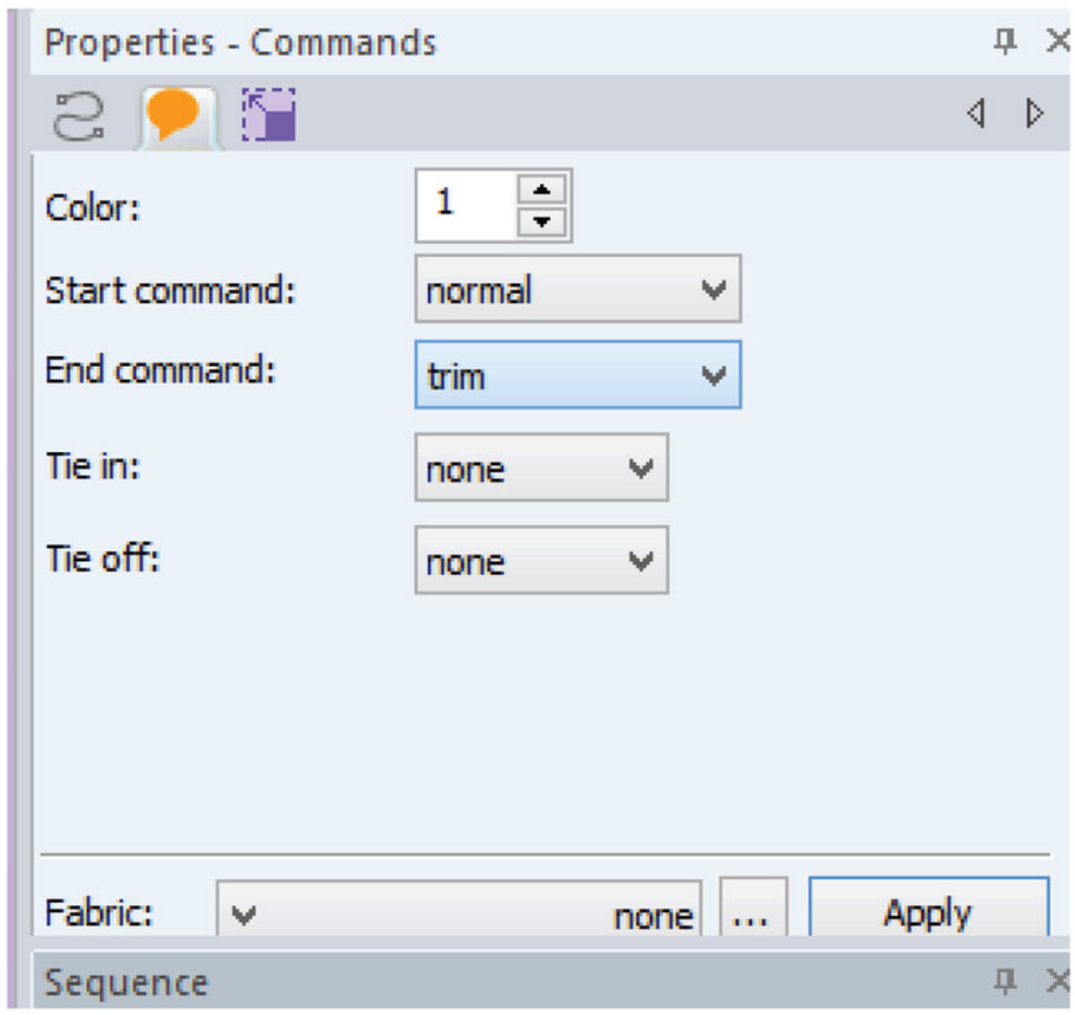
The column is now split.

Split the underlay stitches by selecting the Shape tool and clicking on the line.

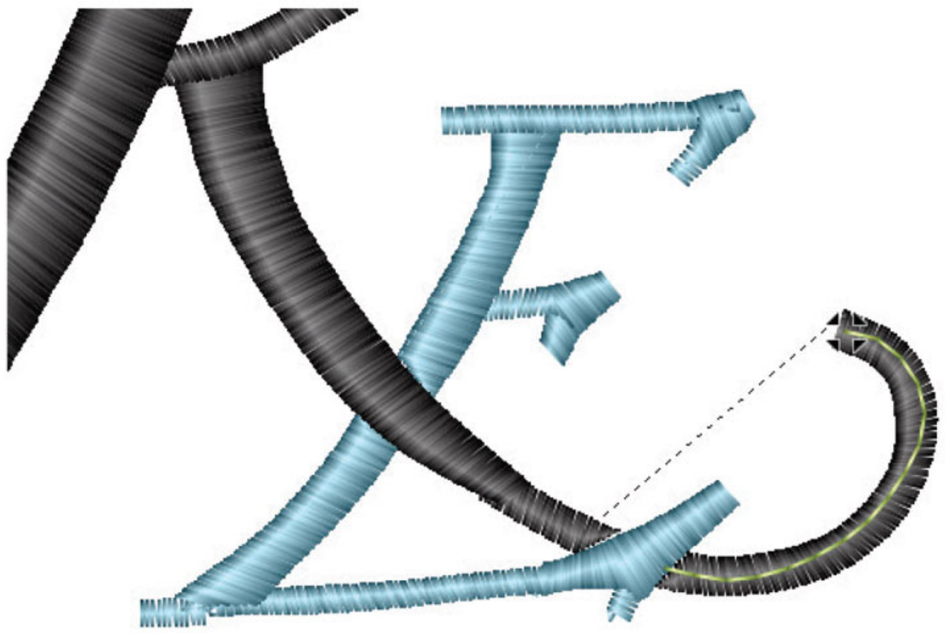


Move the end point to the other side of the split.

In the Properties Box, select Trim from the End Command window and click Apply.



Use the running stitch tool to add underlay under the portion you just removed.



Move the new running stitches into the correct position in the color sequence. Repeat this process for the areas the letters overlap. Check the color sequence of the letters to make sure everything will stitch in the proper order. Print a template of the monogram and send the saved design to your embroidery machine.

Center the template on the pillowcase. Slide a target sticker under the template aligning the crosshairs and remove the template. Insert the outer ring of the embroidery hoop into the pillowcase, centering the target sticker in the hoop. Place tear-away stabilizer over the outer ring. Insert the inner ring into the outer ring. Nest the pillowcase above the hoop, turning it inside out. Attach the hoop to the machine and stitch the design.

Cut the body of the vintage pillowcase 12” from the decorative edge. On our sample, this worked perfectly because the decoration is 10 ½" from the edge. Once cut, our vintage pillowcase is now a 20" x 10 ½" tube. If yours is a different size, measure accordingly to leave the hand embroidery unharmed. Cut cotton fabric 20" x 20". Sew right sides together on three sides. Press. Turn right side out. Turn the vintage tube wrong side out and slip the cotton pillowcase inside, matching raw edges. Sew with ½" allowance. Press the seam allowance towards the cotton and turn right side out. Insert the pillow and fold the flap over the pillow. The pillowcase can also be used on a standard pillow.

CHARLES RIVER
APPAREL
Charles River
LSOM
LSOM

MONOGRAMMED STATE SWEATSHIRT AND HAT

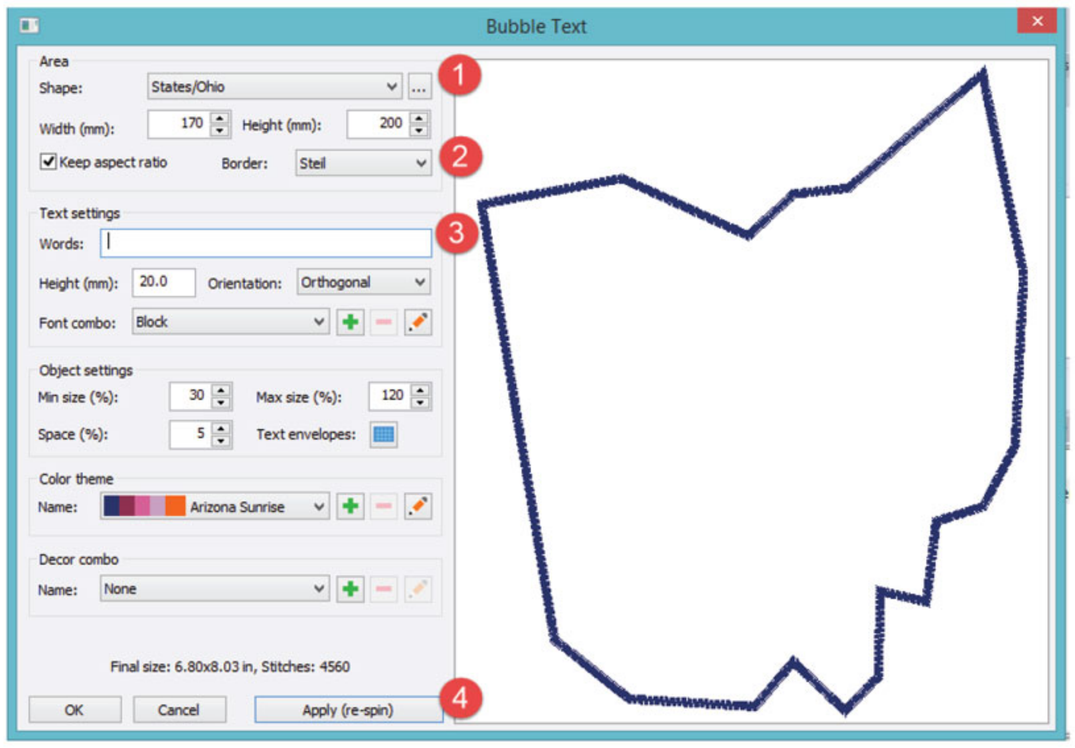
By Marie Zinno

Our monogram theme continues with the Word Art in Stitches embroidery software. I used the new software to create this unique embroidery design for a college student who attends Ohio State University. All 50 states are included in the software so you can easily embroider the states as a running stitch or steil outline and fill the state shape with words. I opted to embroider a monogram inside the state. The matching knit beanie hat is always popular with the college crowd and easy to embroider if you have a multi-needle embroidery machine.

Embroidery Products

Word Art in Stitches Embroidery Software available at Inspirations dealers
Savannah font available in Machine Embroidered Monograms for the Home by Eileen Roche and Marie Zinno
One purchased zipper pullover sweatshirt
One purchased knit hat
Tear-away stabilizer
Medium weight cut-away stabilizer
Water soluble stabilizer
Large target ruler and target stickers from the Embroidery Tool Kit
4" x 4" standard embroidery hoop

Open a new file in Word Art in Stitches software. Click on the Bubble text icon. 1. Select the state from the Shape drop down menu. 2. Select Steil from the Outline drop down menu. 3. Clear the text in the Text field. 4. Click Apply and Ok.



Go to File, Merge and retrieve the three letters from the Savannah font on the Machine Embroidered Monograms for the Home CD. Select the monogram and in the Properties Box, change the size of the monogram to 1 ½" height. Select the two flanking letters and size them to 1 ¼" height. Size the frame to 3 ½" height. Save the design and send it to your machine.

Use the Perfect Placement Kit Left Chest template or the Embroiderer's Helper to position a target sticker on the shirt.

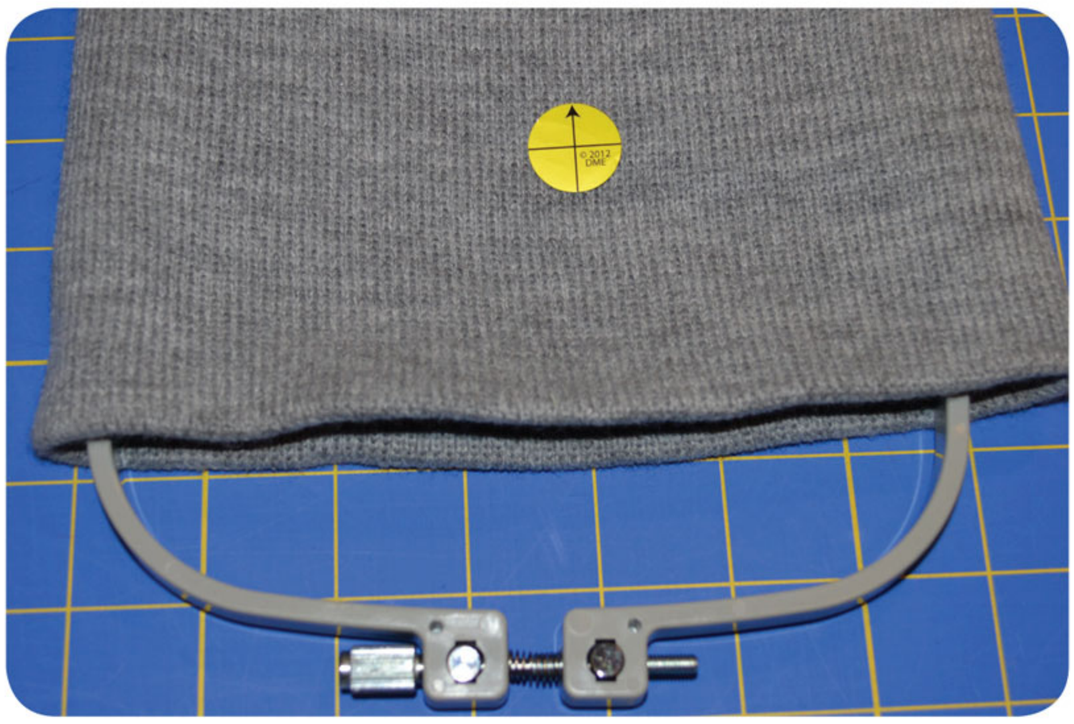
Hoop the sweatshirt with medium cut-away stabilizer. Align the needle with the crosshair on the target sticker. Remove the target sticker when properly positioned under the needle. Embroider the design. Remove the garment from the hoop and trim the excess stabilizer.

MONOGRAMMED KNIT BEANIE HAT - MULTI-NEEDLE EMBROIDERY MACHINE

The knit beanie hat is a popular accessory for cold weather areas and is available in many colors. Normally, a cut-away stabilizer would be ideal for a stretchy sweater knit but in this case, the cut-away would actually hinder the wear-ability of the hat. If you eliminate the stretch, the hat will not expand to fit the head. The design selection is important as well; choose a simple design, fairly low stitch count and conservative in size, under 3".

Place the target ruler on one side of the beanie. Position the target sticker in the center hole and remove the ruler.

Slide the hoop's outer ring into the hat body.



Insert a piece of tear-away stabilizer on top of the hoop inside the hat. Position the inner ring in place, gently stretch the knit without over stretching. Make sure the fabric is snug and pucker free.

Slide the hoop onto the arms on the embroidery machine slipping the hat opening over the bobbin throat.

Align the needle with the crosshair on the target sticker and remove the target sticker. Add a piece of water soluble stabilizer on top of the knit fabric and hold in place with the basting file. Stitch the monogram and remove from hoop when complete. Snip the basting file stitches and remove stabilizer from front and back of hat.

Enchanting Monogrammed Bag

By Tari Intardonato

Make a fashion statement wherever you go with a unique personalized monogram handbag. It all starts with the perfect monogram collection and purse. We used a vinyl, unlined bag.

Embroidery Products

12587 Enchanting Monograms from Embroidery Online,
www.embroideryonline.com

Materials

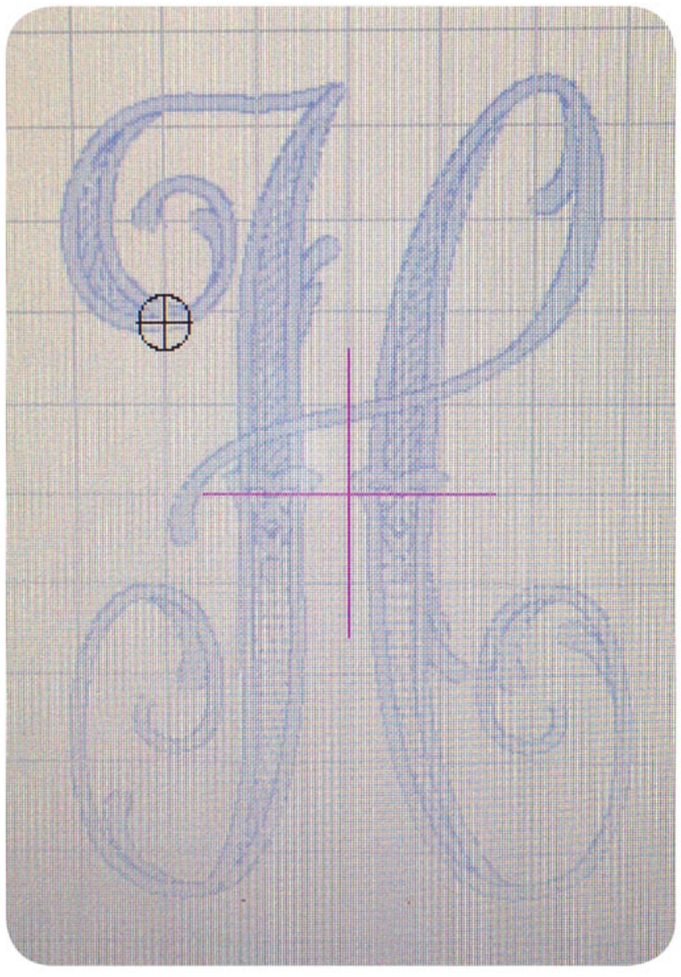
Snap Hoop Monster
Chalk or marking tool
Organ Needle Titanium 80/12
Purchased purse (source unavailable)

Threads

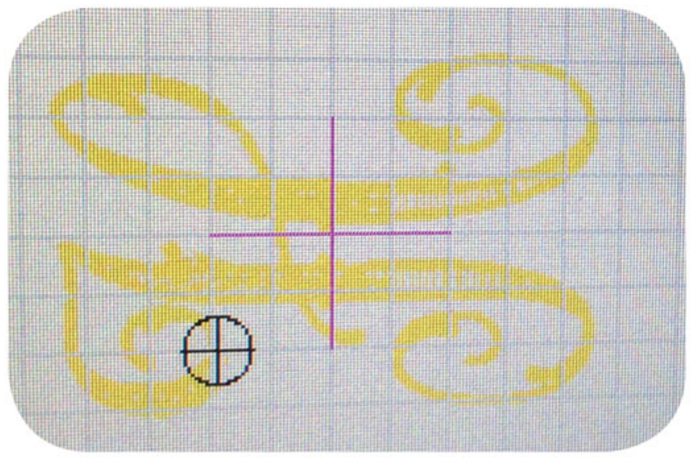
Isacord thread #0020 – black
OESD Black bobbin thread

Step 1. At the Sewing Machine

Retrieve design #12587-08 (H) on the embroidery machine. The H designates the surname in this monogram.

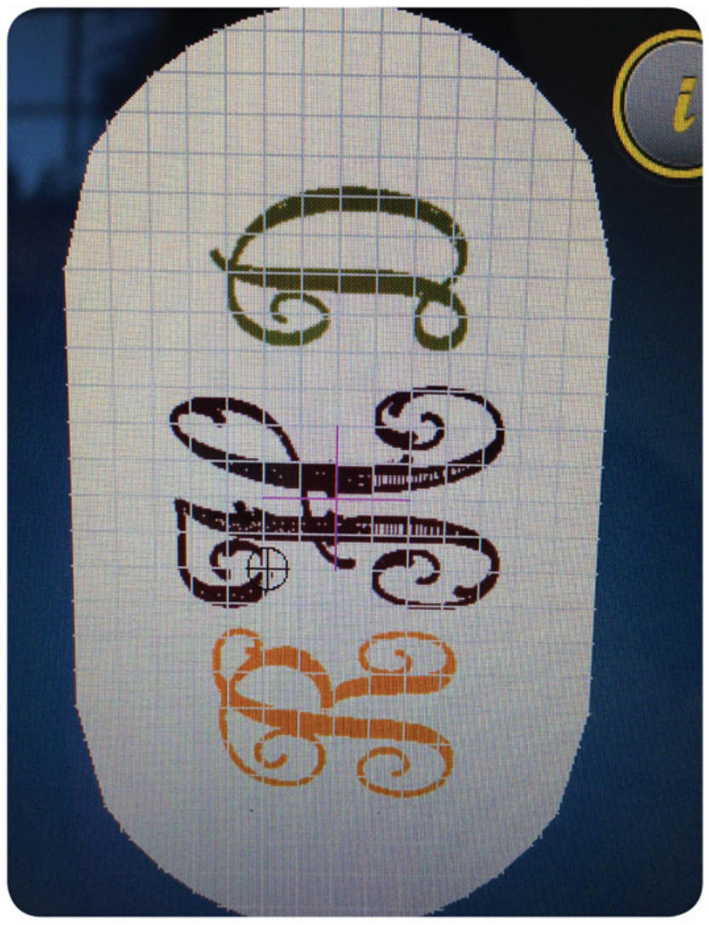


Rotate the design 90 degrees.



Add the first name initial, design #12587-44 (R) to the left of the H using the on-screen graph for positioning. Rotate the design 90 degrees. Decrease the size 20%.

Finally add the middle name initial, design #12587-30 (D) to the right of the H. Use the on-screen graph to position the letter. Rotate the design 90 degrees. Decrease the size 20%.



Step 2. Preparation

Release the stitches on both side seams about half way down to access the design area.

To audition the monogram on the bag before stitching, stitch a sample on cutaway stabilizer. Or open the design in embroidery editing software and print a paper template of the design.

Find and mark the center of the purse front.

Step 3. Embroidery

Hoop the purse in Snap Hoop Monster. Attach the hoop to the machine. Use the arrow keys to move the needle to the center of the mark. Stitch all letters in Isacord thread #0020 – black.

Step 4. Finishing

Sew the side seams closed with matching thread.

Even after using the Stream of Flowers quilt designs to make a large quilt and table runner; the ease of working with these designs to create projects that make me look like a talented free-motion quilter still had me on an "embroiderer's high". Bags were next on the list.

Bags with Pizzazz!

By Sherry McCary

My number one tip for making your bag is to use a solid, plain fabric and let these gorgeous designs be the focal point. The Stream of Flowers designs are sized for the 5" x 7", 7" x 12", and 8" x 12" hoop. With all these sizes and all the beautiful embroidery threads and near-solid fabrics available, your bag-making options are endless!

Embroidery Products

Stream of Flowers Quilt designs CD (Designs in Machine Embroidery)
Snap Hoop Monster 5" x 7" (ombre flamingo pink bag)
Embroidery editing software - We used Inspirations' Perfect Embroidery Pro software

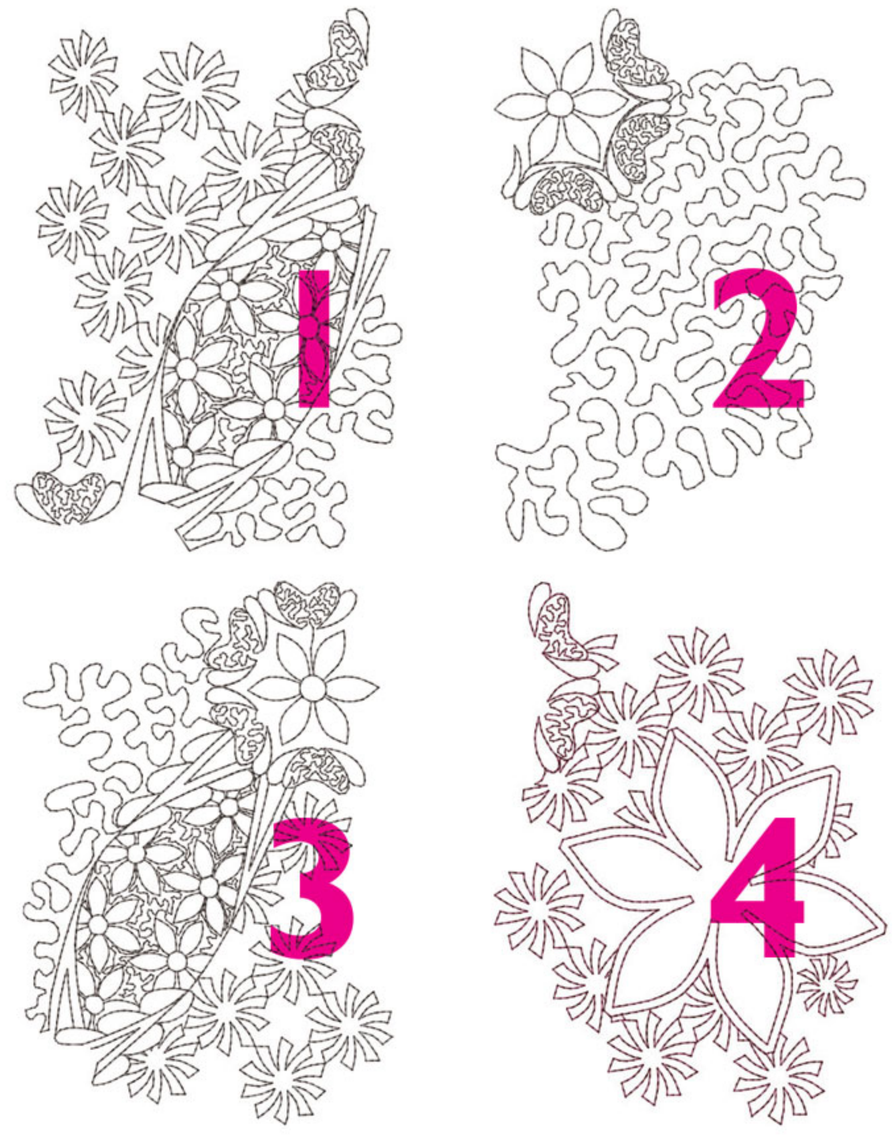
Supplies

Pink bag - 1 ½ yd. each of outer fabric, lining and batting; Four 1" rings (optional)
White bag - 1 ½ yd. each of outer fabric, lining and batting; 4 grommets (optional)
Bias binding
Fusible matte vinyl (optional)
Print and Stick Target Paper (optional)

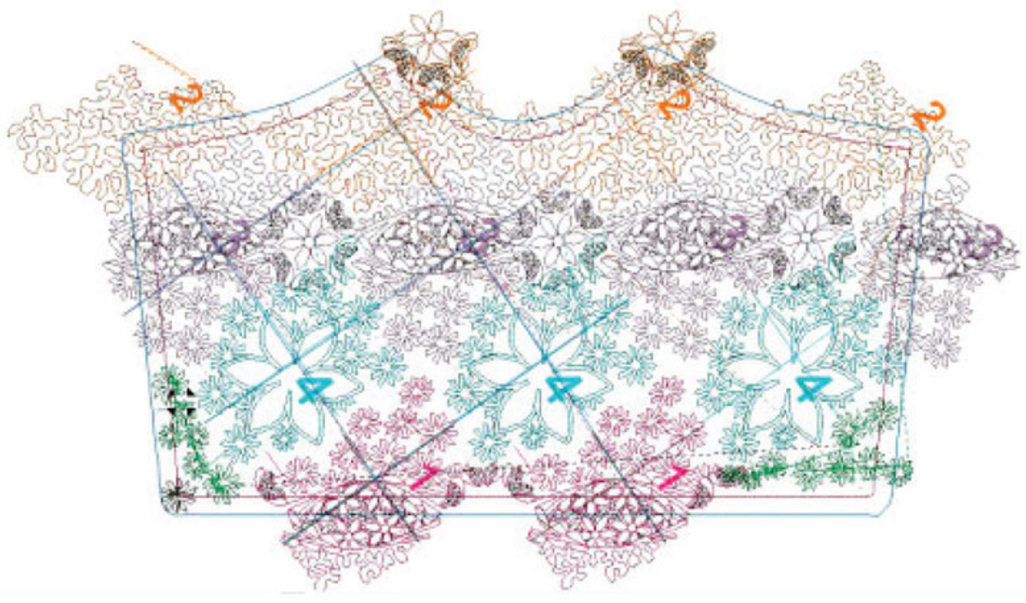
These bags were sized and designed to fit my needs, but the methods can be used for any size or shape bag.

Ombre Pink Bag with 5" x 7" Designs

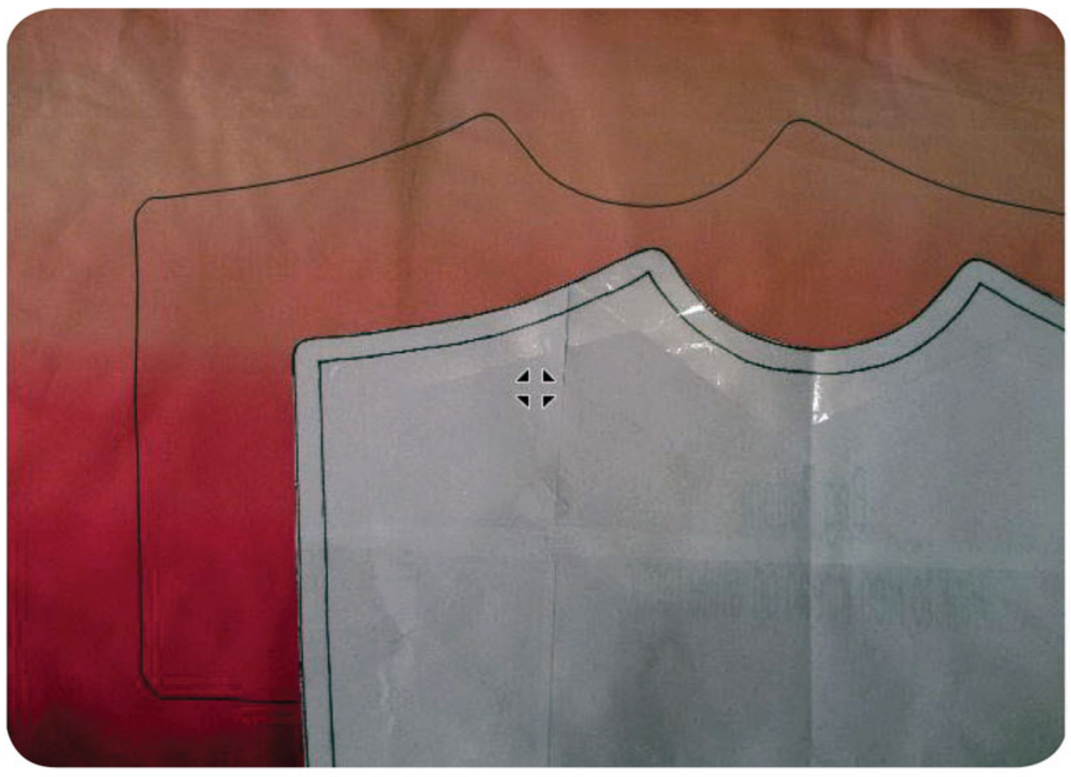
Use Perfect Embroidery Pro or any embroidery software to draw the bag pattern. Not only can the drawing be used to audition different embroidery design layout options, it can be printed and used as the actual bag pattern. Just be sure to save the bag pattern as a separate file before adding the embroidery designs. If you don't have software, draw the bag pattern on paper and print design templates to audition design positioning ideas.



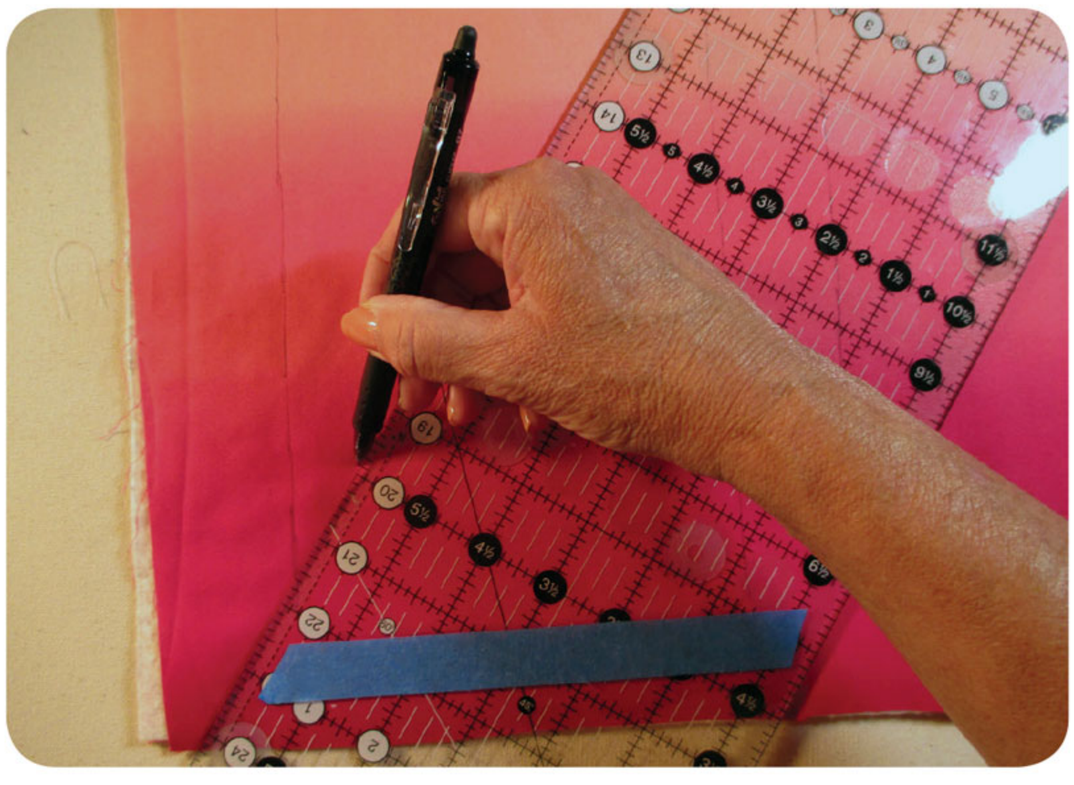
The image below shows the final bag pattern and embroidery design layout for the pink bag. I chose to highlight the largest flowers in the design by rotating the designs to a 45 degree angle so they would travel horizontally across the bag.



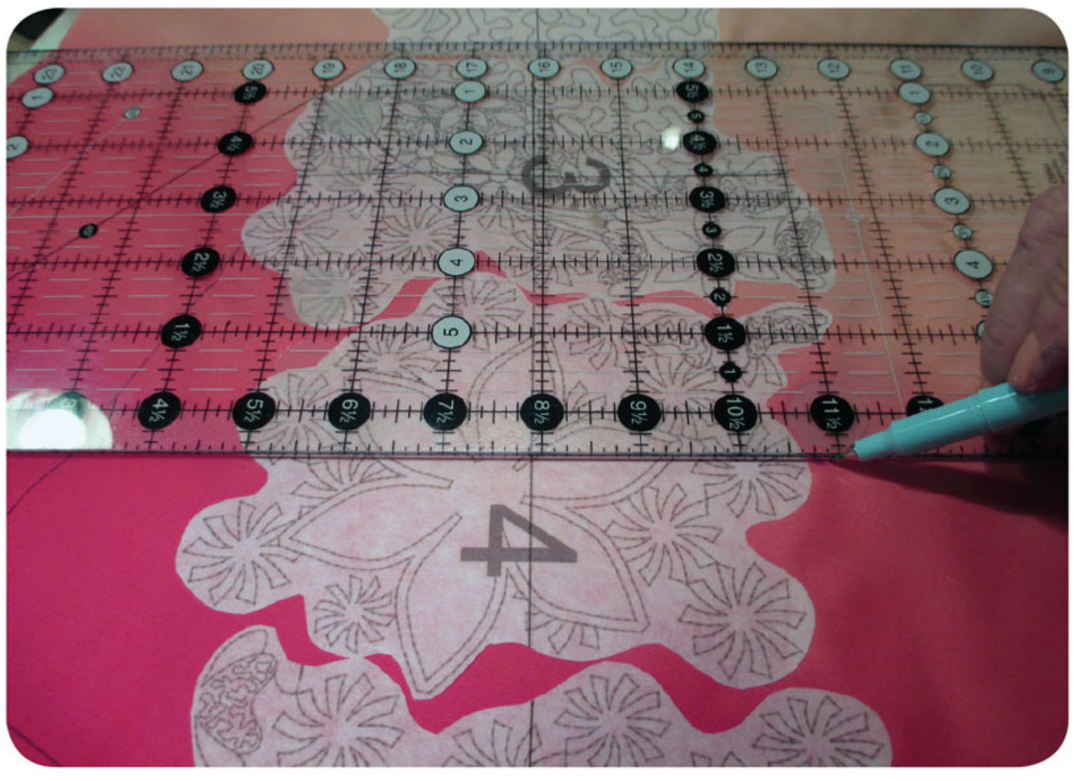
Print the bag pattern and a 1-page mock-up of the design layout. Place the bag pattern on the fabric and trace the pattern for the bag front. This drawing will serve as a reference for positioning embroideries.



Make a quilt sandwich by layering the lining fabric wrong-side-up, followed by the batting, and topped with the outer fabric right-side-up. Place a quilting ruler's 45 degree angle along the bottom of the bag drawing. Use a disappearing fabric marker to draw a reference line for placement of the first few design templates.

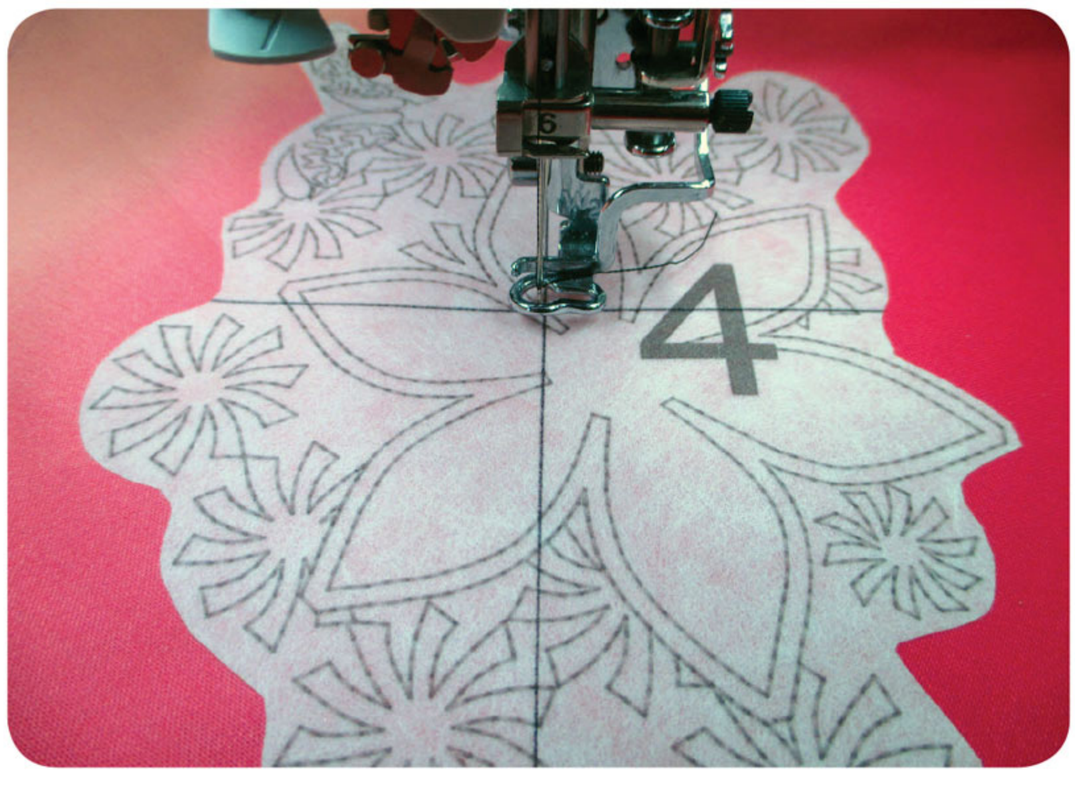


Position several design templates on the fabric, aligning the template's horizontal crosshairs with the 45 degree reference line. Use a quilting ruler placed on the template's vertical crosshair to draw a reference line in the opposite direction.



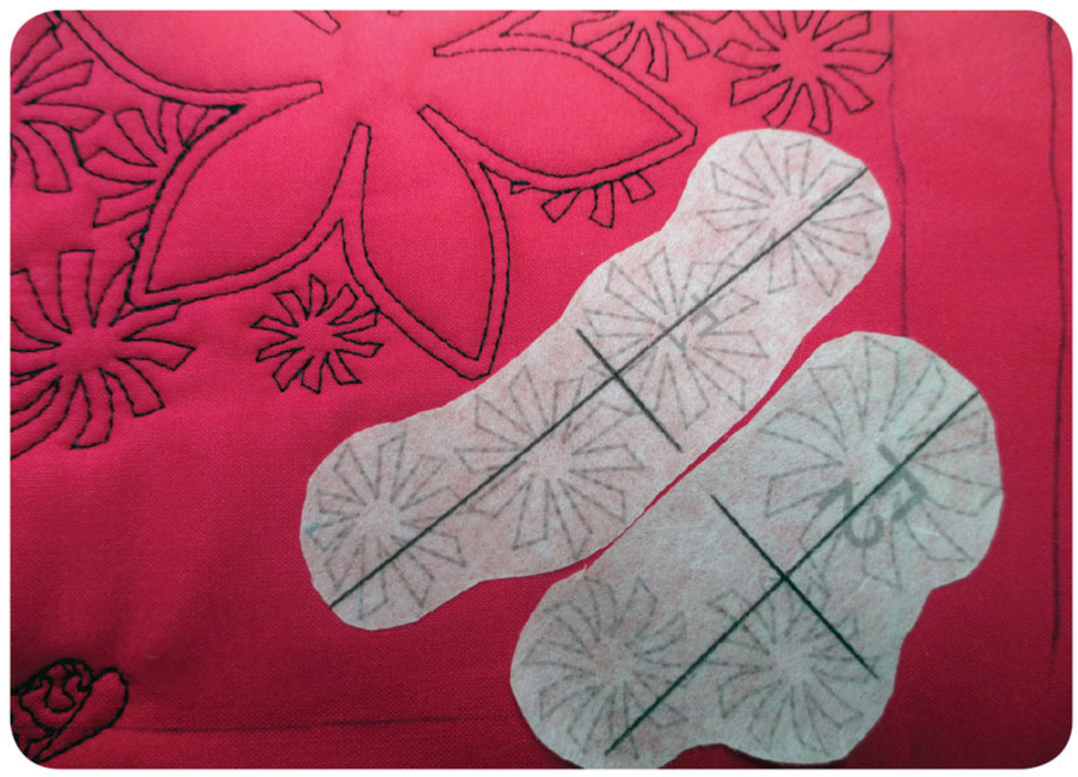
For ombre fabric, do some test stitching to determine the best thread color for the effect you want to achieve. Although my first instinct was to use a pretty pink or coral thread, I selected black since it would show off the designs.

Hoop the quilt sandwich and position the machine's needle on the crosshairs of the first embroidery design. Remove the template and embroider the design.



Lift the top frame of Snap Hoop Monster and reposition the quilt sandwich for the next design. Embroider the design. Use the printed 1-page mockup to help you easily see which design to embroider next. Repeat this process until all embroideries are complete.

Fill any unadorned areas with the included Filler Designs.



Make the second quilt sandwich large enough to accommodate the bag back and two bag side panels.

For bags with pockets, use the same pattern positioning technique. Back the pocket fabric with interfacing and embroider directly on the interfaced fabric. The pink bag has two pockets.

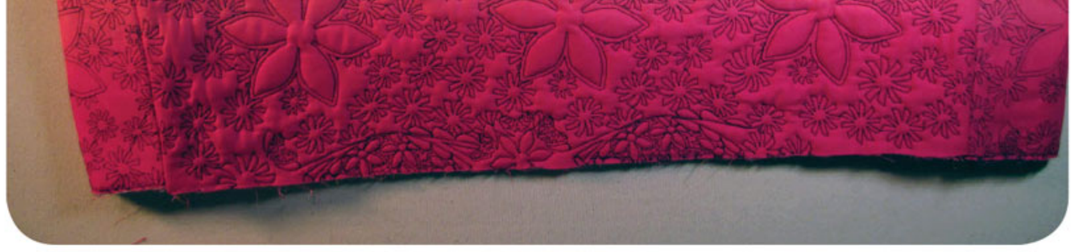
Cut one bag bottom pattern from lining fabric and one bag bottom from outer fabric. Follow the manufacturer's instructions to fuse the matte vinyl to the outer fabric. The vinyl will provide a bit of protection from damp or dirty surfaces. Make a quilt sandwich and do simple channel or grid quilting to hold the layers together.

Cut out all of the embroidered bag pieces.

Sew the pockets to the bag side panels.

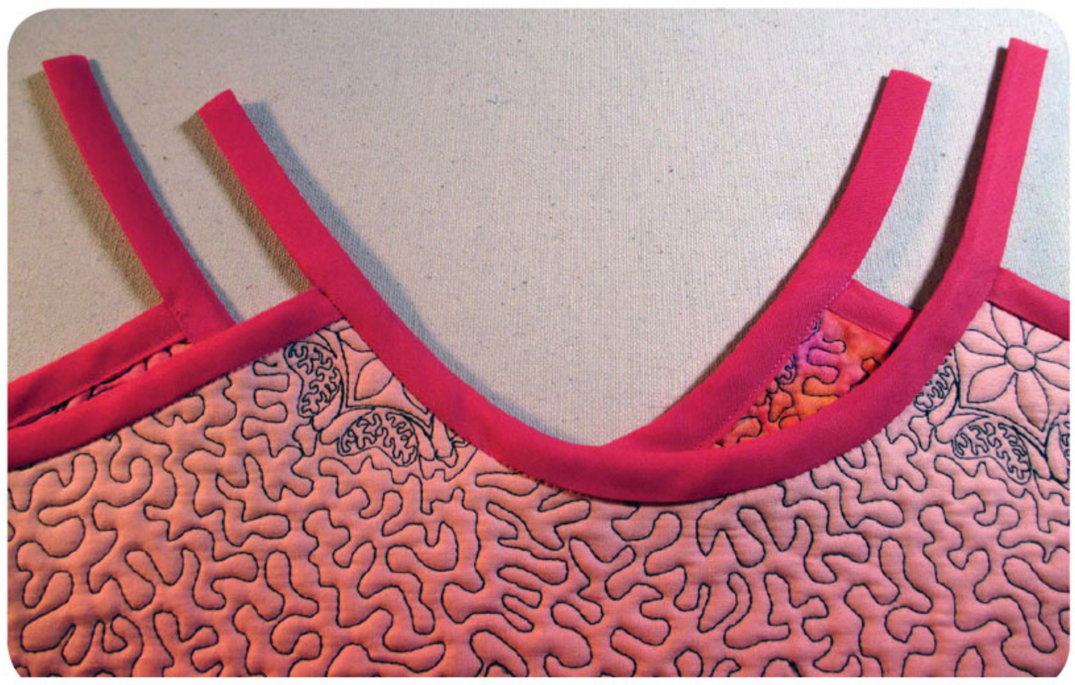
Sew the side panels to the front panel. Sew this unit to the back panel. If desired, serge or finish the seams using your favorite method.

Attach bias binding to the top raw edges, leaving the center scooped-out section on the front and back panel plain.



A simple change of fabric creates a completely different look!

Attach a new piece of bias binding to the scooped-out section of the front panel, leaving 2" extra on each side of the scoop. Repeat for the back panel.



Fold under ¼" on each raw edge of the binding. Slip a 1" ring over each binding end and stitch to hold the ring in place.

Attach bag handles to the rings.

Turn the bag wrong-side-out. Pin or clip the bag bottom to the bag right-sides-together. Sew the seam.

Tablet Tote Finished Size: 11" × 11".
The case can be altered to fit any
iPad, Kindle, Nook etc...

Tablet Tote

By Sue Ann Obremski

Carry a tablet in style! This Tablet Tote has a front offset zipper pocket as well as a back pocket. It can be altered for any size just by adjusting the sides. Finish with an easy accent, a quilted embroidery design painted with metallic paint.

Embroidery Products

John Deer's Adorable Ideas, *www.ultimatestash.com*
Designs used from Quilter Collection Series 3,
Design: Fleur-de-lys Small

Materials

1 yd. faux suede
½ yd. lining material
½ yd. batting
Two 1" O rings
2 Spring Hooks
Two 1" buttons
One 9" zipper
One 12" zipper
Metallic Paint
Q-tips
Interfacing

Step 1. Cut out pattern

Cut from Outer Fabric, Lining, Batting and Cotton Fabric:
- One 12" x 24" Case Body
- One 10" x 14" Embroidered Front Pocket (this is larger than the final size; the pocket will be cut to size after it has been embroidered)

Cut from Outer Fabric:
- One Shoulder Strap 38" x 4"
- Two O Ring Loops 1" x 2"
- One 12 ½" x 10" Back Pocket (Pocket is ½" wider than flap to provide space for cords)
- One 11 ½" x 6" Back Pocket Flap
- One 1" x 12 ½" Back Pocket Flap Tape
- One 1" x 13" Front Pocket Tape
- Two 1 ½" x 8" Handles

Step 2. Embroider the Tablet Tote Pocket

Mark the center vertical and horizontal points with removeable marker on the outer fabric front pocket piece. Layer the front pocket pieces in the following order: cotton (right side down) on the bottom, batting and outer fabric (right side up) on top. Hoop the Front Pocket Sandwich and embroider the Fleur-de-lys design.

Step 3. Paint the Embroidery

Leave the embroidery in the hoop to keep the fabric taut during the painting process.

Drop a small puddle of each paint color on a plate. Cut the cushion tip of cotton off the Q-tip. Dab the tip of the Q-tip into one of the colors and dab off any excess. Starting at the point of one of the sections, brush the paint working inward. The color will fade towards the center of the area resulting in a highlighted effect. If a deeper color is desired, repeat this step. Continue painting the sections using a different Q-tip for each color. As the paint dries, the metallic sheen becomes more visible. Set aside and let dry.

Step 4. Construct the Tablet Tote

Interface the shoulder strap, handles, O-ring loops, back pocket, and back pocket flap, pocket flap tape, front pocket tape, and case body.

O-ring loops, shoulder strap, handles: Press in half lengthwise, fold the long sides to the middle and press in place. Fold in half and edge stitch closed.

Pocket flap tape and front pocket tape: Fold the long sides in ¼" and press.

Back Pocket: Fold a 1" hem along one 12 ½" side, stitch in place. On the other 12 ½" side fold up ½" and press.

Fold Tote Body in half lengthwise and press, open flat and pin the back pocket folded edge along the pressed line and stitch the pocket in place. Ease the extra ½" when stitching in place. Stitch the pocket in place along the side edges.

Back Pocket Flap: fold in half lengthwise right sides together, stitch sides together with ½" seam allowance. Turn right side out, press and top stitch.

Measure in 2 ½" from side and up ½" from flap finished long edge and sew a buttonhole. Repeat on the other side for second buttonhole.

Mark a positioning line 1" above the pocket hem line, center the flap unfinished edge along the position line. Pin the Pocket flap tape over the unfinished pocket flap edge and edge stitch the tape on both sides.

Sew the buttons to the pocket.

Embroidered Front Pocket: Trim to 6 ½" x 12". Zig zag the edges to keep the sandwich pieces from shifting. Fold the right long edge under ½" and position the zipper 2" up from the bottom and stitch the zipper to the pocket. Fold up ½" along the bottom of the pocket. Place the folded edge on the press line of the Tote Body and the left pocket edge along the edge of the case body. Pin in place and stitch along the bottom and side.

Pin the Front Pocket Tape over the other side of the zipper tape, fold up the bottom edge ½" and edge stitch in place.

Fold the O-ring loops in half, slip the loop through the O-ring, and stitch in place 2" down from the top edge on each side.

Handles: Measure 3" in from each side and pin the unfinished edge of the handle to the top edge of the case body. Stitch in place. Be careful not to twist the handle, repeat for the other end of the case with the second handle.

Tote Zipper: Fold up ½" on each case end, press, center the zipper (it's ok to have extra zipper off the sides) pin zipper to case body and sew in place.

Fold Tote body in half, right sides together and sew side seams together using ½" seam allowance.

Lining: Fold the 12" x 24" lining in half, right sides together, to a 12" square. Sew the side seam with ½" seam allowance. Turn under ½" at the opening and press. Insert the lining into the case matching the side seams, pin the lining's folded edge to the zipper tape and hand stitch the lining in place.

Shoulder Strap: pull the end through one of the spring hooks, fold up the end and stitch. Trim the edge close to the stitching. Repeat for the other side.

"Signature" Style

By Katherine Artines

I subscribe to the theory of "the thrill of discovery" and it certainly fits with these name blocks. I began with creating a monogram, but as I kept playing with the letters, it became more fun to use more letters. With a bit of rotation here and there, irregular sizing, and different font choices, they became abstract art….and my new "signature" style!

Editor's Note

We always enjoy opening Katherine Artine's boxes with her projects. This time we were moved by her particular care and thoughtfulness when she stitched the names of our Designs team on a variety of projects. That same creativity she explored and the fun she spread is just a stitch away for you and the people important in your life. Stitch a gift for grandchildren, your aunt or uncle—your neighbor, your teacher – or anyone special! Follow along through the year as we share more of Katherine's Signature Style.

Embroidery Products

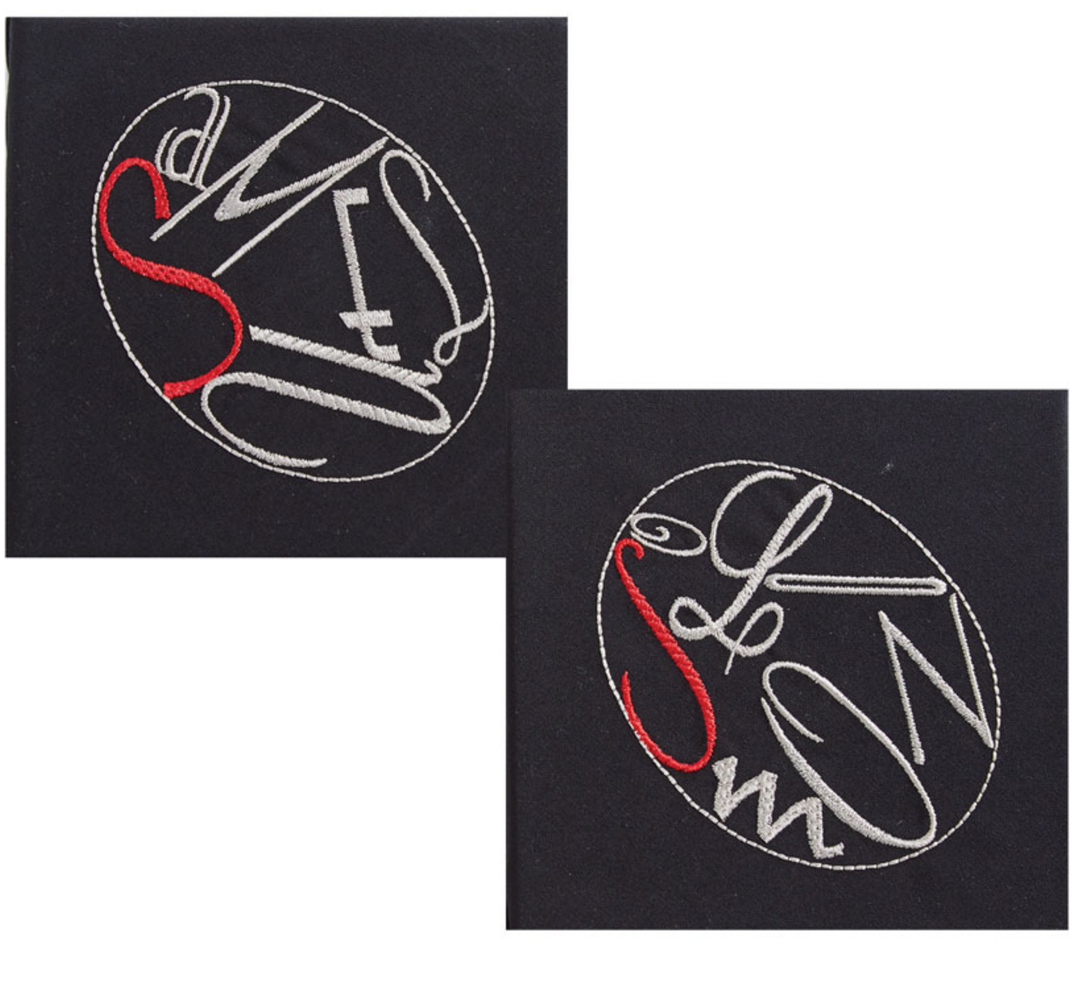
Perfect Embroidery Pro or other digitizing software
Optional: Snap Hoop, Snap Hoop Monster

Supplies

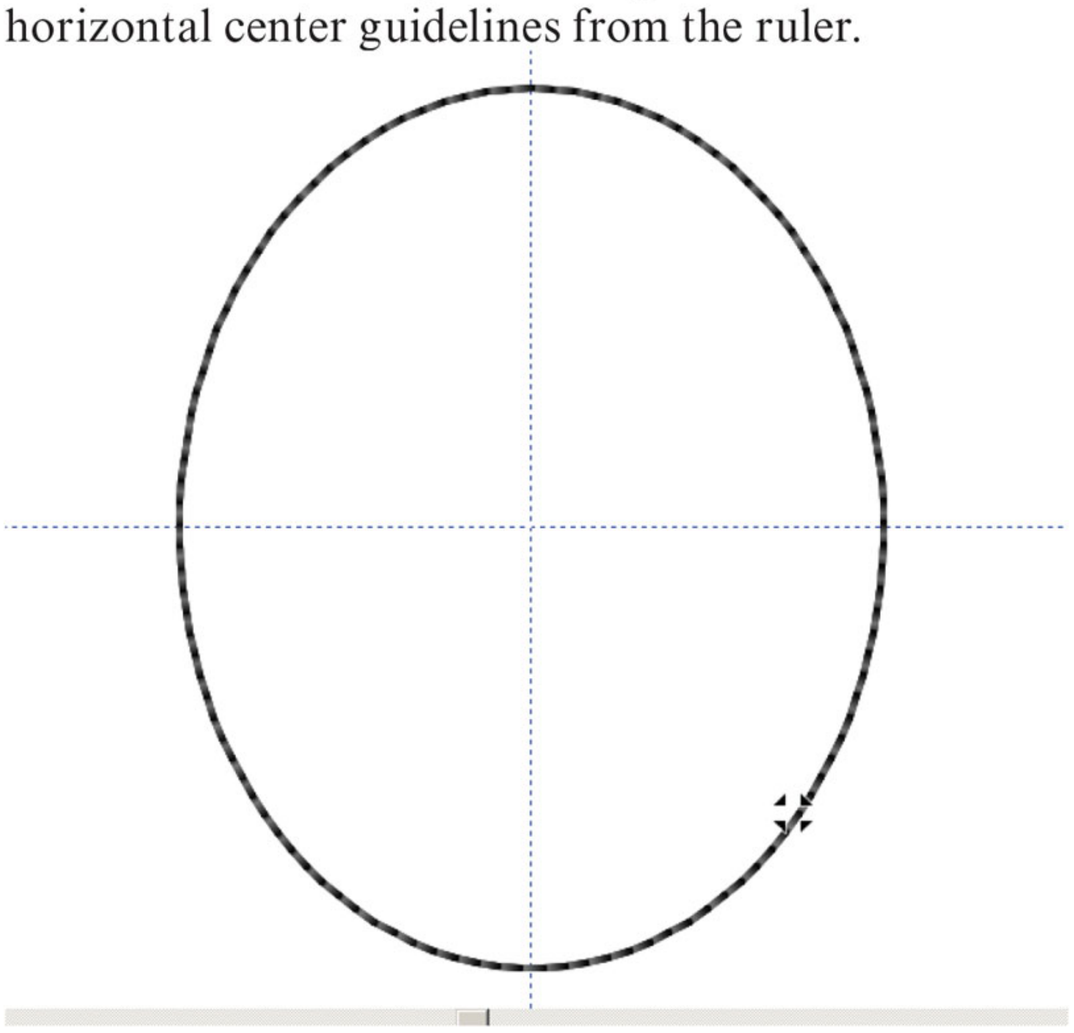
Stabilizers: Tear-away and wash-away
Double-sided fusible web (i.e., Pellon Wonder Under or Steam-A-Seam Lite)
Double-sided adhesive sheets or strong glue for vinyl, leather, or suede
Glue stick, glue gun
Water/Heat soluble marker
Craft felt
Tote, tablet carrier, two 6" square wrapped canvas, and/or assorted frames

Stretched Canvas Art

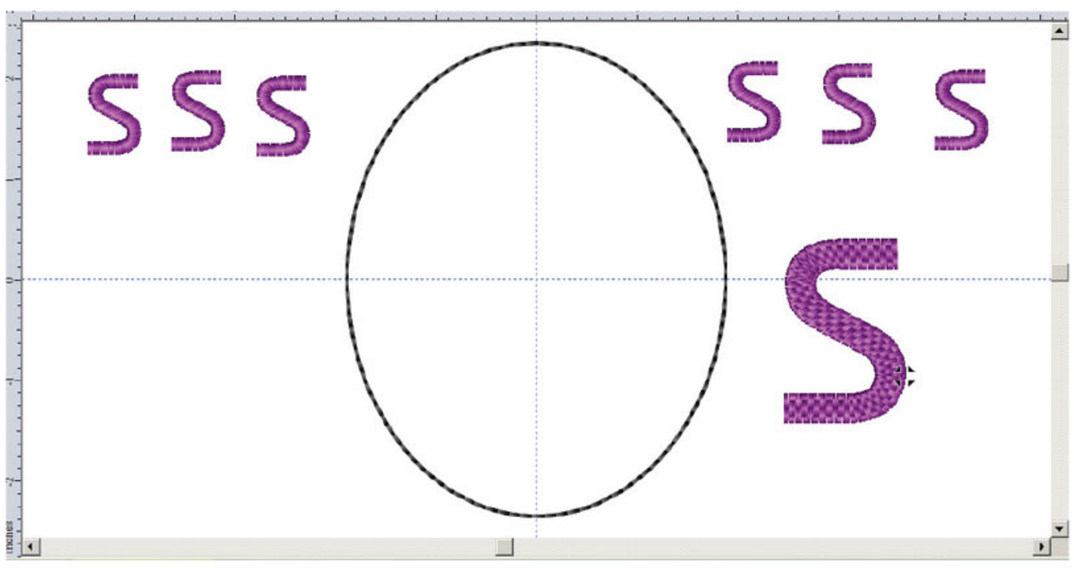
For this sample I stitched the name Samuel Solomon.



In the software, use the artwork tool to draw the shape and size of the area that will hold the name, in this case a 3.75" x 4.5" oval that fits the 6" canvas on-point. Drag vertical and horizontal center guidelines from the ruler.

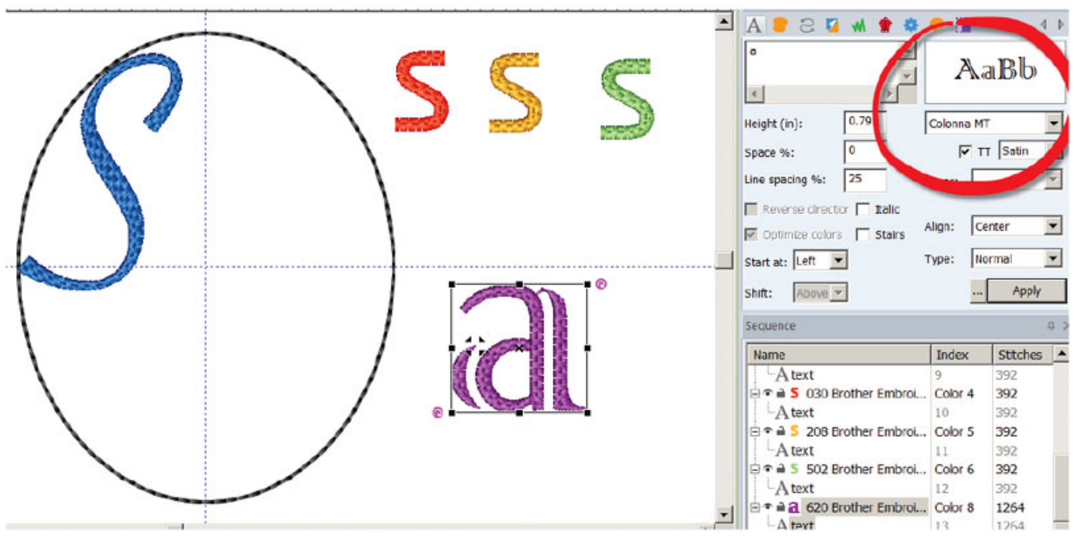


An easy process for auditioning fonts is click on the Text tool, type the first letter of the name and click Apply. Use the Select tool to select it, Copy and Paste it for each letter of the name plus one more. Change each letter to a different color. Use the extra letter to audition fonts in upper and lowercase.

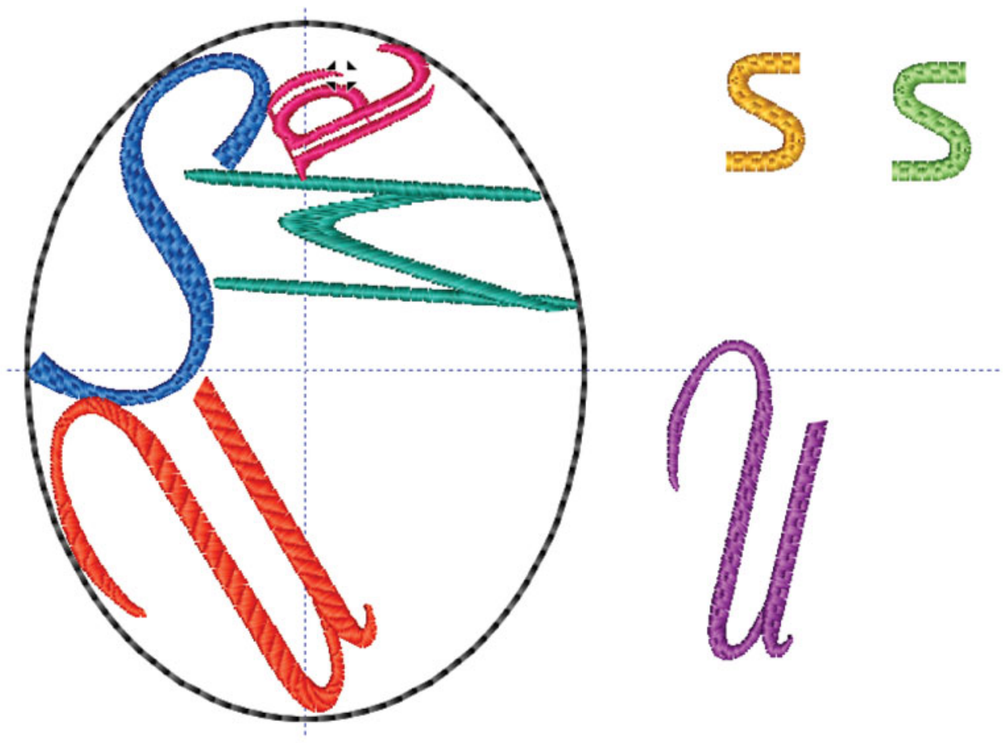


Important: Because these letters are larger than normal, depending on the font chosen, you may need to use a Fill Type Pattern other than satin.

When I found a font I liked for a particular letter, I dragged the letter into place, rotated and sized it until I was pleased with the arrangement.



Continue in this fashion until the shape is filled with the letters of the name.



At times the screen was littered with letters, but it all came together! For this file, and all others, save as a .c2s working file and once more as your machine format file.

The original oval was copied from the Samuel file and pasted in a new screen to complete his last name in the same manner. For each, the focus fabric was hooped with tear-away stabilizer in the appropriate size hoop for the finished design. To make the two canvas blocks cohesive, a red thread was used for each of the capital S letters and the remaining letter stitched in gray.

With the stabilizer removed from the design, it was centered on the 6" canvas on point. Proceed with your favorite method of wrapping stretched canvas.

For a detailed procedure on how to do so, visit *www.nancyzieman.com/blog/nancys-fusible-appliques-framing-instructions/*

Grandkids' Multi-Frame

The same procedure was followed in the software for each of the grandchildren's names, with the artwork shape set to a slightly smaller size than that of the frame (i.e., 3.5" x 5.5" to fit a 4" x 6" frame). Since the rectangle itself was not to be stitched, it was left as artwork. Based on the openings in this multi-frame, the two boys' names were horizontal; the three girls' names were created vertical. I had one frame unused, so I filled it with a fun message indicating that I have five grands. It helps to have some consistency to this type of project so all of the names were done in white thread on different colors of the same fabric pattern.

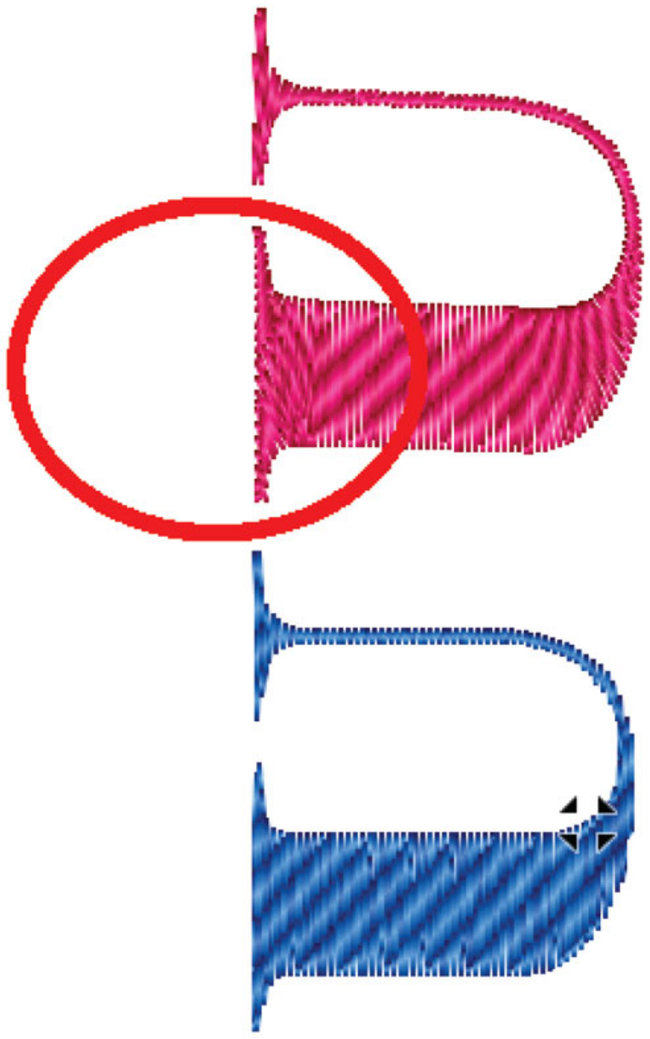
Note: Because most of the letters were going to be outside the range for a proper satin stitch (Column I Split distance), I went ahead and made the first letter a Brick fill pattern (or anything other than Satin). Then copies were made for the number of letters as explained with the Samuel project.

Eileen Roche's Bag and Denise Holguin's Tablet Tote

For Eileen's black bag and Denise's pink tablet tote, the areas were measured and a rectangle was created with the artwork tool in that size. For Eileen's name, the rectangle was copied, pasted, and changed to a size ½" smaller than the first, which gave a ¼" area between the two lines. Each was converted to a bean stitch. It was important to print out a template, which was trimmed to actual size, so it could be taped to the items to see the finished look.

Actually, I created a number of the name files in different sizes to audition, some horizontal and some vertical.

If your hoops are not large enough to contain both boxes for the names, create each in a smaller hoop.



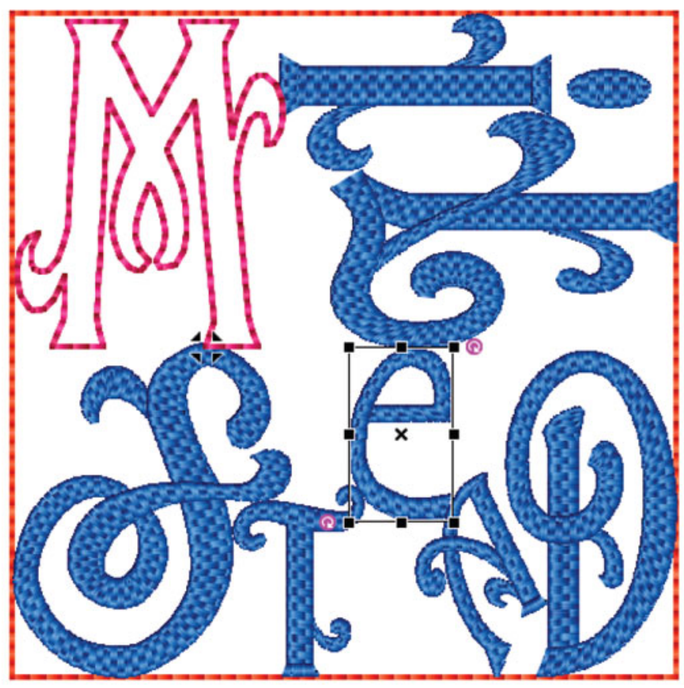
When playing with the block for Denise's last name, I used the TT Satin Elephant font in the normal Text tool Properties box. When the letter was changed to a Corn pattern, notice how the upper part of it was not a smooth transition for the pattern. The fix? Use File / Import TT Text, choose the same Elephant font for the U, and bring it to screen. See how this one has a smoother look to the Corn pattern? If it hadn't come in this way, I could have tweaked this TT letter because it is artwork and the Shape tools apply.

Newlyweds' Album Accent - The Milsteads

Choosing Fabrics

Eileen's name for the black tote and the newlyweds' name for the album were each stitched on medium-weight vinyl. Denise's name was stitched on pink suede. Knowing the fabric up front dictated the font and stitching choices. By stitching on a separate piece of fabric and then using the double sided adhesive sheet cut to size to adhere it to the tote/cover/album, the underside of the embroidery will not show. If you choose, embroider directly onto the item.

Decide the length and width of the vinyl strip to add across the album, taking into consideration any existing decoration on the cover. Cut the vinyl strip this measurement. In the software, create an artwork shape that fits well within the vinyl strip width and fill it with the desired letters. Those shown on the album cover are a mix of uppercase and lowercase in the Text tool keyboard font Mono20.



As a keyboard font, the letters come in as satin stitch. In order to get this outline look, each letter was created in a separate text box. With it selected and sized, right click and choose Outline; set distance to 0. Convert that outline to a Run / Bean. Delete the satin filled letter.

Hoop tear-away stabilizer in the hoop sized for the design. Lay the vinyl strip centered horizontally and vertically over the embroidery field of the hoop. If you have a Snap Hoop, it would work wonderfully for this type of embroidery. Stitch the design. Remove the strip from the hoop and the stabilizer from the design. Center the strip on the album and glue down with either a double-sided adhesive sheet cut to size or with glue appropriate for vinyl (E6000).

With this different take on a normal monogram, ownership is made in an understated way. However, the "aha" moment is anything but subtle!

Get the Scoop *on In the Hoop*

By Marie Zinno

It amazes me how many quality in the hoop embroidery projects are available for the home embroiderer. During the past eight months, I have covered a variety of ITH designs and have really enjoyed sharing them with you. For this issue I feature an in the hoop clutch purse which was designed by Embroidery Garden. The design set includes step-by-step detailed directions in a PDF format for you to print at home. The instructions include several options for clutch size, lining with pockets and more. Read through the instructions carefully before starting.

Embroidery Products

Clutch Purse set-In the Hoop by Embroidery Garden, *www.embroiderygarden.com*
(5" x 7", 6" x 10", 7" x 12" included in set.)
Monogram font – I chose the Classic Monogram font from Perfect Embroidery Pro software
(2" tall single initial)

Supplies

Polymesh or no-show cut-away mesh
Warm and Natural batting or Pellon 988
One 9" or longer plastic zipper
Outer and lining fabric per pattern requirements
Purchased purse handles
7" x 12" size purse was used for this project.

Make the Tabs

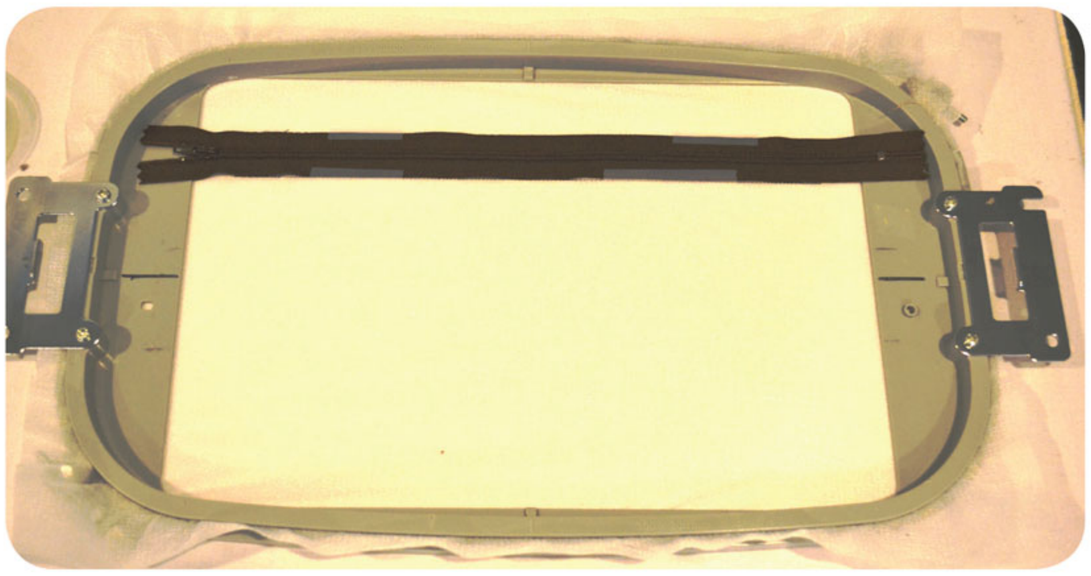
Follow the directions included with the purchase of the clutch for making the tabs to hold the purchased strap to the clutch. Make one tab for each end of the handle. Set aside.

Hoop polymesh cut-away stabilizer in the appropriate size hoop for the design. Make sure the stabilizer is taut in the hoop. Layer the batting and one section of purse flap fabric (right side up) in the hoop. Embroider the stipple design. Add the monogram after the stippling is complete.

Add the other piece of outer fabric on top of the monogrammed flap, right sides together.

Take the flap fabric out of the hoop and trim all corners and stabilizer, turn right side out and set aside.

Hoop another piece of polymesh cut-away stabilizer and stitch the first color; the placement guide for the zipper. Place the zipper right side up over the placement guide. Tape the zipper in place and stitch color two, the tackdown.



Follow Embroidery Garden's directions for enclosing the ends of the zippers with tabs. Once the ends are covered, add the lining, batting, strap and outer fabric sections.

Remove from the hoop, trim away the stabilizer and turn right side out through the opening.

TWO NEW SIZES:

BERNINA,
260 mm x 400 mm (SH00C4M)

BABY LOCK / BROTHER,
8" x 12" (SH00A7M)

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Sew Select
Hattiesburg, MS

January 16, 2016
Quilting & Embroidery Mixer
The Sewing & Vacuum Center
Meridian, MS

January 22 – 23, 2016
Software & Hooping Clinic
The Quilter's Trunk
Chicago, IL

January 22 – 23, 2016
Quilting & Embroidery Mixer
Sew Much More
Savannah, GA

January 29 – 30, 2016
Software & Hooping Clinic
Expert Sewing
Port Charlotte, FL

January 29, 2016
Quilting & Embroidery Mixer
Pins & Needles
Mayfield Heights, OH

January 30, 2016
Quilting & Embroidery Mixer
Pins & Needles
Middleburg, OH

FEBRUARY 2016

February 5 – 6, 2016
Embroidery Techniques from A to Z
Flash Sew & Quilt
North Naples, FL

February 5 – 6, 2016
Quilting & Embroidery Mixer
Patches & Scraps
Midland, TX

February 5 – 6, 2016
Quilting & Embroidery Mixer
Paula's Fine Fabrics
Jacksonville, FL

February 12, 2016
Quilting & Embroidery Mixer
Above and Beyond Sewing
Thornton, CO

February 13, 2016
Quilting & Embroidery Mixer
Above and Beyond Sewing
Centennial, CO

February 12 – 13, 2016
Quilting & Embroidery Mixer
Longview Sewing
Longview, WA

February 19 – 20, 2016
Quilting & Embroidery Mixer
Idaho Sewing & Vacuum Center
Boise, ID

February 26 – 27, 2016
Quilting & Embroidery Mixer
Bolts in the Bathtub
Lancaster, CA

February 26 – 27, 2016
Quilting & Embroidery Mixer
Sew Little Time
Las Vegas, NV

MARCH 2016

March 4 – 5, 2016
Quilting & Embroidery Mixer
Coastal Sewing & Appliance
Wilmington, NC

March 4 – 5, 2016
Quilting & Embroidery Mixer
Sew Much More
Austin, TX

March 11, 2016
Embroidery Techniques from A to Z
35th Avenue Sew & Vac
Phoenix, AZ

March 11, 2016
Embroidery Techniques from A to Z
Life's A Stitch
Appleton, WI

March 12, 2016
Embroidery Techniques from A to Z
35th Avenue Sew & Vac
Chandler, AZ

March 12, 2016
Embroidery Techniques from A to Z
Life's A Stitch
De Pere, WI

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Quilting & Embroidery Mixer
Sandy's Make It Sew
Livonia, MI

March 11 – 12, 2016
Quilting & Embroidery Mixer
Sew Tech
Evansville, IN

March 18 – 19, 2016
Quilting & Embroidery Mixer
Cynthia's Fine Fabrics
Tamarac, FL

March 18 – 19, 2016
Embroidery Techniques from A to Z
Marie's Sewing Center
Lockport, NY

March 18 – 19, 2016
Quilting & Embroidery Mixer
Magical Stitches
Macon, GA

March 25 – 26, 2016
Software & Hooping Clinic
Patches Quilting & Sewing
Mt Airy, MD

Visit www.inspiredbydime.com for more dates!

Fabrics 101

Embroidering on DENIM

By Deb Mundinger & Kenny Christopher

Denim is sturdy, durable, and a dream to work with in embroidery projects. As well as embroidering designs onto jeans and jackets, we've also made tote bags, pot holders, baskets, catchalls, and pillows with denim.

To demonstrate how to embroider on denim, we'll add letters to the legs of jeans. If the jeans are new, pre-wash them; denim is cotton, and it will shrink.

Rip the outer seam of the legs of the jeans, about 8". Hoop one of the legs with a piece of medium-weight (2.5 ounce) cut-away stabilizer.

At first glance you might think denim is so sturdy and hearty that tear-away stabilizer will be sufficient. But denim stretches. Think about how your jeans fit when you first put them on in the morning, and how they get looser throughout the day.

That same stretching occurs when embroidering. The hoop is moving, and the needle separates the fibers as it adds stitches. We've found that cutaway stabilizer is the foundation that doesn't stretch with the denim, and it'll keep those stitches landing where they're supposed to. To avoid shifting and gapping in your stitchouts, use cut-away stabilizer.

A size 11 or 75/11 sharp sewing or embroidery needle will work very well with denim.

After embroidering the initials on each leg, trim the excess stabilizer away from the back. Leave about ½ inch around the stitches.

Then, stitch up the seams again. These jeans are custom-made for Caitlin, so a C is on her right leg, and a B on the left.

Denim is sturdy, so it can support very detailed designs. If you're looking for fabric that will support your most complex wildlife designs with layering, shading, and highlighting, then denim is the right choice. But avoid anything too light, like Redwork. Running stitches may get lost in the denim fabric.

In the fabric store you'll find denim in a rainbow of colors. We enjoy experimenting with bright thread and jewel tones to make the designs "pop" from the fabric.

In this example, birds perching on a clothesline were stitched onto dark blue denim. We added a piece to the back, and interfacing in the middle. Fringed edges and a ribbon hanger complete this door hanger, ready to welcome every birdie to your home.

Denim is such a versatile fabric that the garment and décor possibilities are limitless.

Tips

Design choice: Denim can support designs from low complexity to high complexity. Avoid very light designs, such as Redwork, as the stitches may not stand out enough from the denim.

Stabilizer: A medium-weight (2.5 ounce) cut-away stabilizer is the best choice.

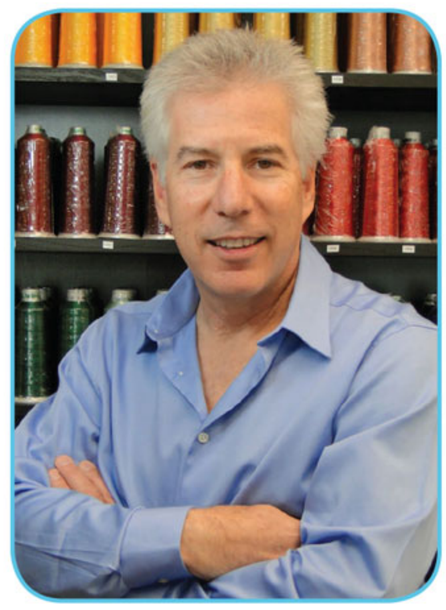
Needle: A size 11, or 75/11, sharp sewing or embroidery needle, will work well.

Deb Mundinger, President, and Kenny Christopher, Vice President, are two savvy stitchers from Embroidery Library, Inc. Together they have more than 30 years of experience with denim, as well as a variety of other fabrics. Visit their website at www.emblibrary.com.

Designs featured:
Birds on a Wire Clothesline (F9652, F9653, F9654)
Formal Affair Letters, 3" height (X9476)

Great Scott!

By Scott Goodman



Scott Goodman, owner of Sewing Machine Warehouse & Kneedle.com has been servicing the sewing public since 1976.

Break Free From The Past!

This is a bold new world. You have seen the new, bigger embroidery machines, with their massive touch-displays, and humungous embroidery frames.

What might be holding you back? Our ancestors kept sewing machines for generations. Today's culture is technology-driven; features, speed, convenience, win! Our values change over time. I would feel awkward wearing grandpa's pocket watch, and I probably won't be handing the current iWatch down to my children or grandchildren. When is it time to retire your embroidery machine and invest in new technology? Here are some concepts that may be holding you back from embroidery nirvana.

I think floppy disks might make a comeback. Technology moves in one direction, on a linear path. Older technology, physical or virtual will not respond to your standing ovation, and play another tune. If your embroidery machine sports a floppy disk, compact flash, or serial cable, you will not be able to kick the can down the road much longer. The device drivers will run on Windows ME, 98 and XP, but may be orphaned on Win 7, 8 or 10. (Anyone know what happened to 9?)

Give up the ghost! Copy your designs to a more contemporary form-factor, preferably cloud or USB thumb drive. Let me translate. The cloud refers to places on the internet that feature vast amounts of memory storage and robust anti-virus security, from trusted companies like Dropbox, Google, Microsoft and more. The cloud can be accessed from many devices that include computers, tablets, phones and some sewing machines. Costs vary from cheap to free and you will never worry about hard drives that crash or backing up your files.

I get frustrated trying to line up multiple design elements when creating larger projects. Like our universe, designs are ever expanding. Let's face it. All of the cool designs are larger than 5" x 7".

So Long Charlie! This year, there are several modestly-priced, new models that will embroider designs up to 6" x 10".

I can't make out the pudgy blotches that represent information on my monochrome display. I have no idea what will happen when I press the "go" button.

Bye Felicia! Many newer models rock high-resolution color displays. These information-rich screens can present enough data to assure embroidery success. What You See is What You Get technology, shows your design in a virtual hoop. With some advanced models, you can see a virtual representation of your finished project onscreen.

Jump-stitches make me crazy! Fill stitches cross over on top of jump-stitches, making it impossible to clean up my design. Sometimes, when I remove my project mid-design, the hoop snaps open and all the fun spills out.

Pack it in! All major brands, feature models that will trim jump-stitches while embroidering. No more worries about fill-stitches covering your ever-growing web of jump stitches. This can't-live-without feature makes embroidery efficient and fun.

My baseball caps never look right. I feel like a contortionist when hooping baby onesies.

¡Adios Muchacho! Spend a little time with single and multi-needle, tubular-armed models by Baby Lock, Bernina and Brother. These semi-pro models use cap frames that move caps three-dimensionally, minimizing distortion while maximizing producibility and pride in crafts(wo)manship. Baby onesies, pockets and small, tubular projects are much easier on this class of embroidery machine.

These machines aren't free, and I spent so much on my last machine.

Bite the bullet! Many dealers will reduce the cost of new models, and take your older machine in trade, toward your new machine. No-interest programs of 24, 36, 48 or 60 months can reduce your financial impact, to rival your current monthly Starbucks budget.

When is the right time to upgrade?

Embroidery is a rewarding and fun hobby, and that pastime is even more enjoyable with the right tools. Stop by your neighborhood dealership and ask about machines with the latest features. If your flip-phone starts ringing, it may be the '90s…Don't answer!

What new features are your favorites? Never gonna give you up, never gonna let you down. Send me a note: GreatScott@kneedle.com Like to find out what's new in real time? Hit me up on Facebook: Facebook.com/GreatScottSews

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5 100 Stitches
A wide variety of beautiful 7mm stitches, including utility stitches, buttonholes, decorative stitches, quilt stitches, needle art stitches and satin stitches.

* Top five features are repeated in bold under respective categories

SEWING FEATURES

The Original IDT™ System – Integrated Dual Feed only from PFAFF® for over 45 years! Absolutely even fabric feed from both the top and the bottom.

PFAFF® Original Presser Foot System – Many optional accessories available to expand the sewing experience.

Thread Snips – Automatically cut top and bobbin threads, pulling thread ends to the back side of fabric.

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Beautiful Appliqué Pin Stitch – Adjustable; easy to achieve your desired result.

Start/Stop Button – Press the Start/Stop button to sew without the foot control. Makes sewing long seams, free-motion and buttonholes easy.

Speed Slider – Adjust the speed with the speed slider for full control.

One-step Buttonhole – Snap on the buttonhole foot and sew repeatable buttonholes smoothly.

Free-motion Sewing – Simply attach the optional free-motion presser foot and lower the feed dogs for easy quilting.

SEWING FEATURES

External Feed Dog Drop – Convenient location; lower the feed dogs from the back of the free arm. Ideal for stippling, free-motion embroidery or darning.

Extra-high Presser Foot Lift – Raises the presser foot to its highest position so that thick fabrics can be placed easily under the presser foot.

Presser Foot Pressure – Can be adjusted for specialty techniques or when sewing on light or heavy fabric.

Adjustable Thread Tension – Depending on the fabric, batting, thread, etc., the thread tension dial can be set to make the threads meet evenly between the layers of fabric.

Needle Up/Down – Touch a button to set your needle to automatically stop up or down in the fabric for pivoting, appliqué and more. Tap the foot control to shift between needle up/down position.

Immediate Tie-off – When the button is pushed, the machine will tie-off automatically for a quick and easy finish.

29 Needle Positions – Perfect for topstitching, quilting, inserting zippers and more.

Integrated Needle Threader – Makes threading the needle fast and easy.

Stitch Plate – Markings to the left and right of needle help you guide your fabric.

Snap-on/Snap-off Presser Feet – Changing is easy, no screwdriver or other tools are needed.

Top Loaded Bobbin – Easy to access.

Electronic Needle Piercing Power – Full piercing power at any speed with total control.

Two Spool Pins – For twin needle sewing or specialty sewing.

Accessory Feet Included – 6 different presser feet for all your basic needs.

MACHINE FEATURES

Compact/Portable Sewing Machine – Perfect for taking to classes and for travel (lightweight: 14.7lbs/6.7kg).

PFAFF® Design – Built for precision, helping you achieve professional results with comfort and ease.

Info button – Simply touch to see the recommended presser foot for the selected stitch.

Two LED Light Sources – Optimized bright lights illuminate your sewing area without shadows.

Stitch Menu Tab – Convenient location on the right side of the machine. Pull out to view the complete collection of stitches.

Hard Cover – Protects your sewing machine when transporting it; keep it dust free, plus smart storage for your foot control and power cord.

Accessory Tray – Keep all your sewing needs at your fingertips.

Extension/Quilt Table – Optional extension table provides support for your projects.

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Inspired by DIME	70-71	www.inspiredbydime.com
Kai Scissors	59	www.KAIscissors.com
Kreations by Kara	69	www.KreationsbyKara.com
Nancy's Notions	21	www.nancysnotions.com
PREMIER+™ Embroidery System	5	www.premierplusembroidery.com
Seams Sew Special	79	www.sewspecial.com
Sew Timeless	79	www.sewtimeless.com
The Sewphisticated Stitcher	47	www.theSewphisticatedStitcher.com
Stitchsoup.com	69	www.StitchSoup.com
Sudberry House	79	www.machinecrossstitch.com
Sulky	17	www.sulky.com/
Urban Threads	82	www.urbanthreads.com
Zippy DesignZ	47	www.ZippyDesignZ.com

**IFC = Inside Front Cover*

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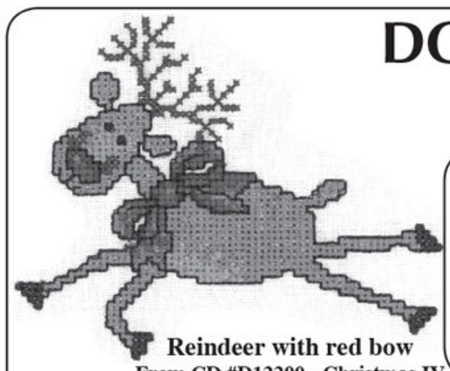

Reindeer with red bow
From CD #D12200 - Christmas IV

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The Last Word

What word comes to mind when creating a gift for a new born? Love has to be at the top of the list. There are 26 letters in the English alphabet and a million ways to combine them. One arrangement – LOVE – is a heart-stopper. Normally, Love is arranged on a baseline, all the letters kerned like soldiers in a parade. But famous artist Robert Indiana stacked the LO over the VE in his LOVE statute for Philadelphia, the City of Brotherly Love, in 1976 and since then, we've enjoyed hundreds of variations on the stacked style.

Applique Café's adorable applique design is just the right size (it comes in three sizes), just the right amount of detail and just the right amount of style to transform a simple onesie into gift-worthy level.

Start with the onesie and fuse polymesh stabilizer to the wrong side of the design area.

Audition fabrics to find the right combo.

If the applique fabric is a light color, fuse interfacing to the wrong side. Even if it's not a light color, it's still a good idea to do that for children's garments – the applique will go the distance.

Hoop the onesie keeping the design area open and stitch color 1, the placement guide. Add the applique fabric, stitch the tackdown, trim the applique and add the remaining details. The flower is a small applique that stitches after the letters. If desired, hand sew a dimensional flower over the flower applique. All those pretty stitches spell one thing - LOVE.

THIS YEAR, MORE THAN 14,000 WOMEN WILL DIE FROM OVARIAN CANCER.

IF DETECTED EARLY, 90% COULD SURVIVE.

HELP US END OVARIAN CANCER IN 2016.

Order the "Embroider a Cure" design collection from www.dzgns.com to make a difference in the lives of women currently battling this disease. Simply choose your ribbon or statement of purpose for the fight against any cancer. The designs are great for fundraisers, awareness walks/runs or just as an everyday reminder to stay strong in the fight. Wear or give the designs proudly on t-shirts, scarves, handbags, jackets, blankets and more! 100% of proceeds benefit Be the Difference Foundation in the fight to end ovarian cancer.

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- **20 Embroidery files**
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